

WiderNet

Casting a Wider Net

.Org

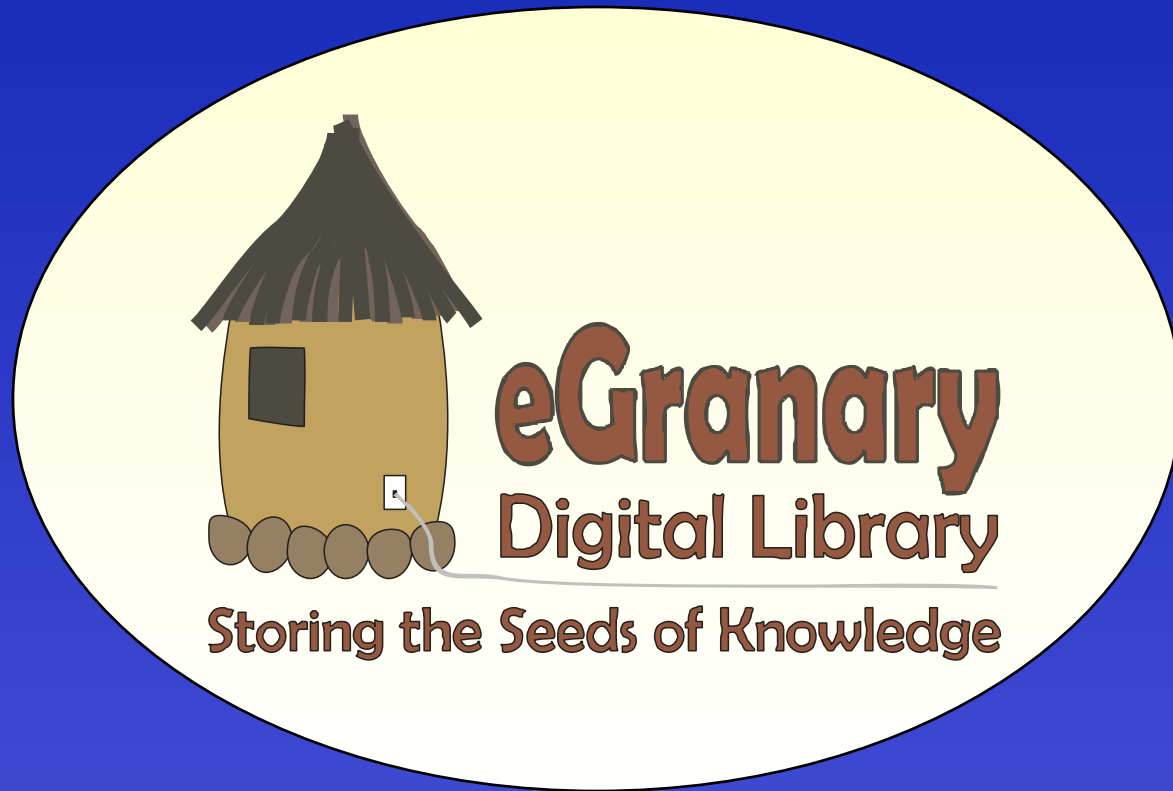


The WiderNet Project

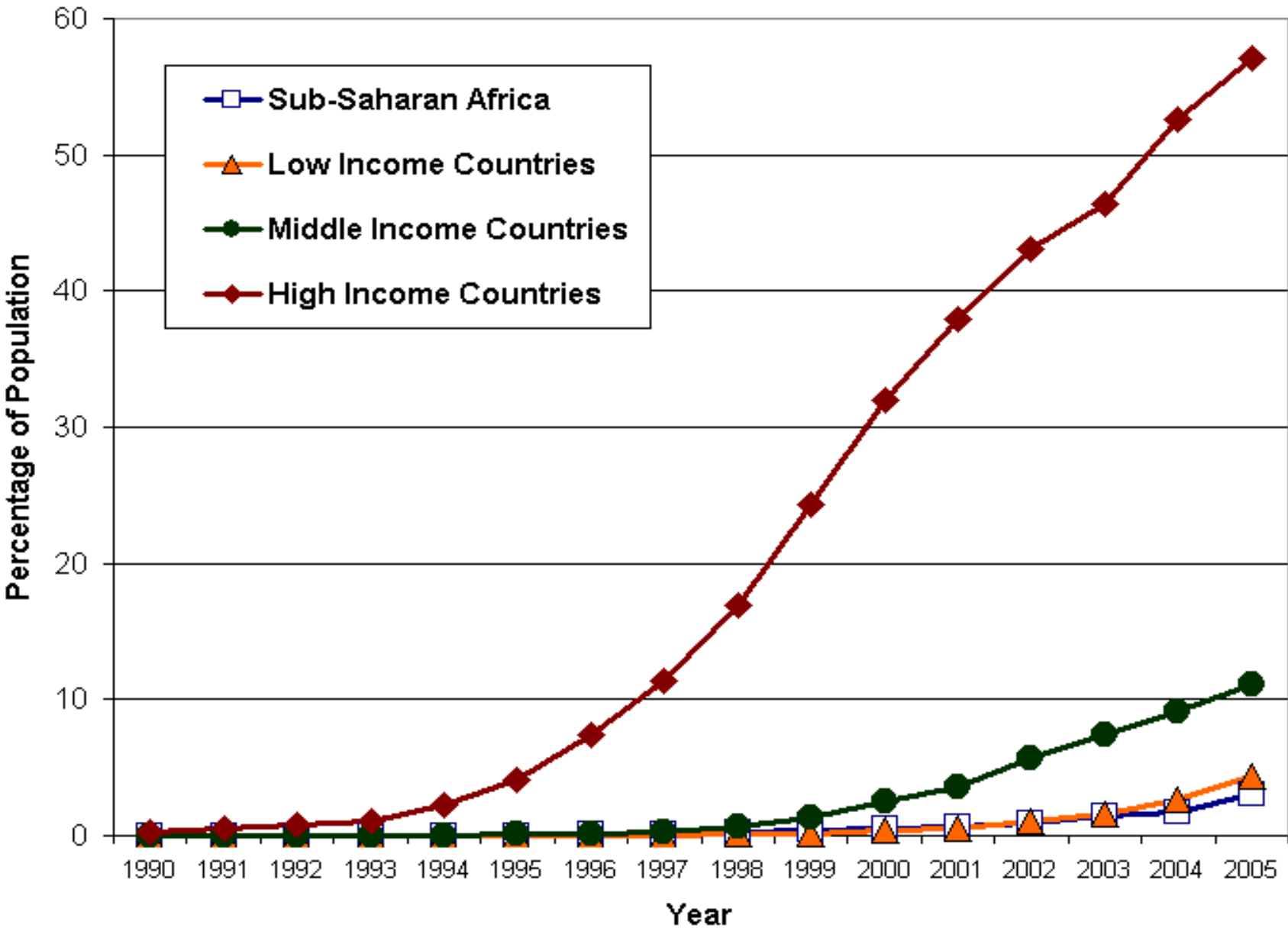
- Since 2000, building capacity at African institutions for academic collaborations
- 4,000+ participants from 26 institutions across sub-Saharan Africa and India (~30% women)
- Collected over \$1,500,000 in new & used hardware, software for partners in Africa
- Refurbished and shipped 1,200+ used computers for partner universities in Nigeria, Liberia, and Ethiopia
- 500+ volunteers have put in over 12,000 hours
- Focus on practical, cost effective solutions
- Helping to build a digital culture (best practices, user groups, student internships, gender equity...)
 - “see one – do one – teach one”

The eGranary Digital Library

“The Internet in a Box”™



Internet Use by Country Income Group



The Reality of the Cost

- Freakishly expensive: 100x U.S.
 - 2009: \$150K for dedicated 1mbit
- Extraordinary sacrifice for institutions with other very compelling needs
- Bandwidth Blackmail
- Beware the aristocratic “Oh, let them buy bandwidth” attitude.
- 800 lb. gorilla effect

The Reliability of the Internet Connection

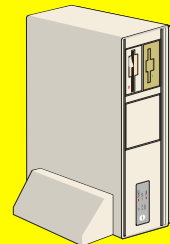
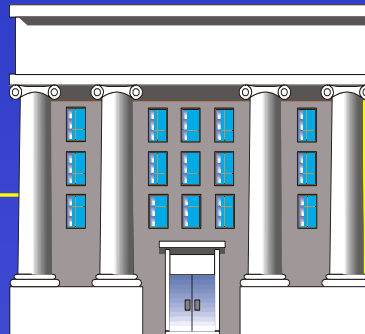
- Very rarely 24 x 7
- Many institutions hard pressed to deliver 6 hours a day
- Frequent lapses of a day or more
- Occasional lapses of a week or more
- Many points of failure, the external connection to blame about 70%

Replacing Bandwidth with Storewidth

- 2,000+ GB information store inside LAN
- Millions of educational documents
- Collection created and maintained by librarians
- Multimedia, audio, video at full network speeds
- No bandwidth costs
- Augments a conventional Internet connection



Internet



LAN

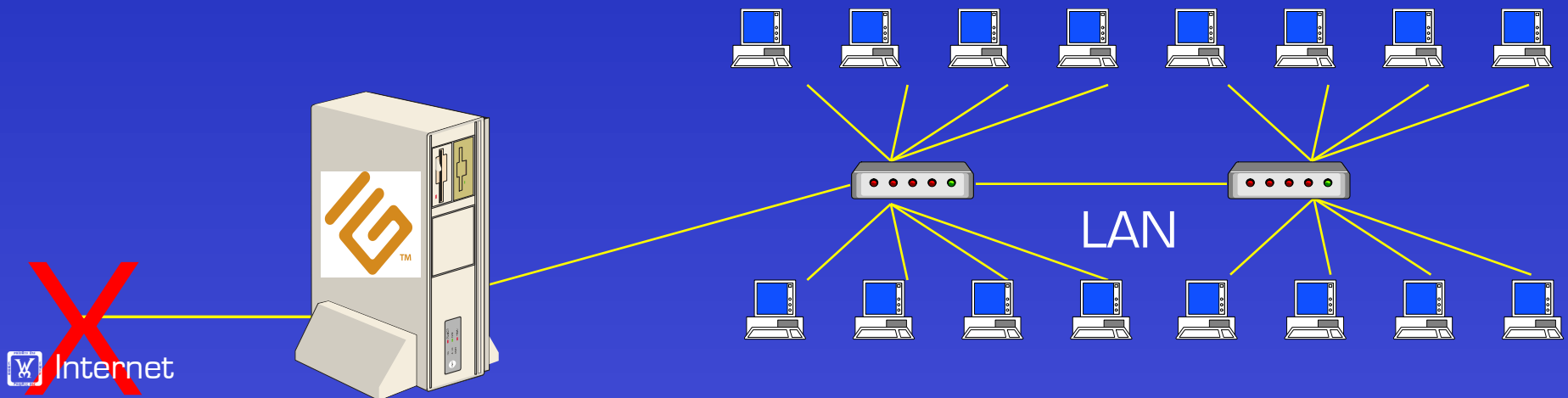




The eGranary is already installed in more than 300 schools, hospitals, clinics, and universities in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

The eGranary Digital Library can provide thousands of networked computers high-speed access to millions of documents and multimedia files over a local area network.

Even when the Internet connection is broken!





Full Text Search

Our the entire collection!

Find

[Search Help](#)

Featured Resource



eGranary Digital Library Catalog

Over 33,000 documents organized by our librarians!

Easy Find Buttons



Audio



Video



Essays



Books



Journals



Curriculum



Software



Portals

Catalog Search

Find

[Advanced](#)

[Search History](#)

[Search Help](#)

Browse By Category [More...](#)

[Agriculture](#)

[Anthropology](#)

[Arts](#)

[Business](#)

[Computer Science](#)

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[Global Studies](#)

[Info and Comm Technology \(ICT\)](#)

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“Access to Knowledge Makes a World of Difference” • The eGranary Digital Library

[The WiderNet Project](#) • [School of Library and Information Science](#) • [The University of Iowa](#)

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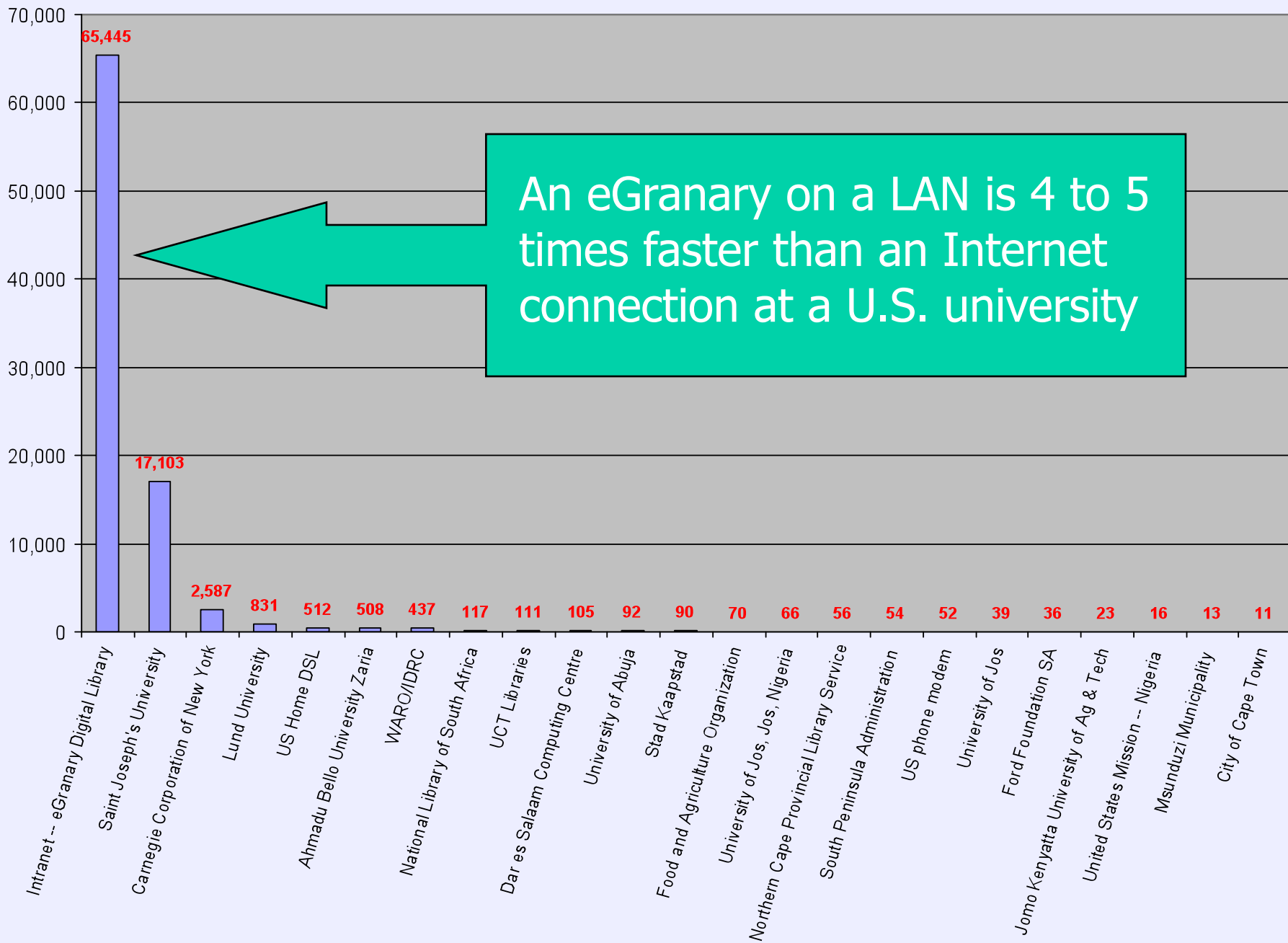
The eGranary Digital Library

- Permission from over 1,200 authors & publishers (MIT OpenCourseware, Wikipedia, WHO, Math TV, Virtual Hospital, etc.)
- Over fourteen million documents
- Tens of thousands of books, hundreds of journals, hundreds of Web sites & CDs
- 300+ installations in Africa, India, Bangladesh, Haiti
- Patrons open documents 100 – 5,000 times faster than with their Internet connection

WiderNet Project Internet Speed Test

Average Bandwidth by Organization in Kbits

9/21/04 -- 300+ tests



Evaluation Program

Supported by the Rockefeller Foundation

- Logistics of implementing the eGranary highly dependent on the enthusiasm of a champion
- Many of our subscribers do not expect or use technical support (or respond to surveys)
- Never enough access points
- Information literacy the most daunting task faced by librarians and instructors
- Everyone has a particular set of content they would like to see improved

Community Information Platform

sponsored by the Intel Corporation

- Adds interactive “Web 2.0” capabilities
 - Create IDs and logins (LDAP security)
 - Built-in tools for making Web sites
- Easy to upload and share locally made content
 - MySQL and PHP for local dynamic Web databases
 - Moodle: course management software
 - Drupal: Web content management system
 - WordPress: Blog software

Built-In Web Tools

- Create unlimited local Web sites with built-in software to manage files and edit pages
 - Community groups, like schools, libraries, hospitals or NGOs
 - Course Web sites
 - Community directory
 - Personal or student Web pages
 - Social networking sites

Improved interface

- The eGranary catalog has been improved significantly, so finding resources is easier
- There are over 40,000 items in the catalog
- Interface allows users to interactively expand and narrow their search
- Both a catalog and text search available

New Portals

- A topic-specific point of entry; a gateway or guide to finding information on a particular topic
- Each portal provides easy access to an abundance of diverse sources of information on a single subject matter
- Medicine, nursing, public health, accident and injury prevention, water development, etc.

Why Portals?

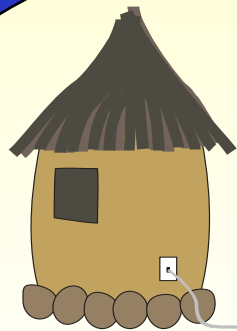
- Having access to information is one thing, being able to use it well to meet a specific mission is another
- Organizes sets of information into user-friendly, issue-centric interfaces
- Identifies, collects, catalogs, and develops collections for various user groups
- Reduces the time and effort for new users to integrate digital resources into their mission

Training Tools

- Building portals that highlight web sites with training tools
- Creating Moodle-based courses that lead to a “driver’s license.”
- Helping librarians to incentivize training programs

The eGranary Digital Library

Delivers!



eGranary
Digital Library

Storing the Seeds of Knowledge



The eGranary Digital Library

The WiderNet Project
The School of Library and Information Science
University of Iowa

<http://www.egranary.org>

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