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# Preparing for the Revolution

## Information Technology and the Future of the Research University

Panel on the Impact of Information Technology on the Future of the Research University

Policy and Global Affairs Division  
National Research Council

NATIONAL ACADEMY PRESS  
Washington, D.C.

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1 **PANEL ON THE IMPACT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON THE FUTURE OF**  
2 **THE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY**

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1 **Preface**

2  
3 **[Other material to be added.]**

4  
5 This report has been reviewed in draft form by individuals chosen for their diverse perspectives  
6 and technical expertise, in accordance with procedures approved by the NRC's Report Review  
7 Committee. The purpose of this independent review is to provide candid and critical comments  
8 that will assist the institution in making its published report as sound as possible and to ensure  
9 that the report meets institutional standards for objectivity, evidence, and responsiveness to the  
10 study charge. The review comments and draft manuscript remain confidential to protect the  
11 integrity of the deliberative process. We wish to thank the following individuals for their review  
12 of this report:

13  
14 **[Insert names and affiliations of reviewers listed alphabetically]**

15  
16 Although the reviewers listed above have provided many constructive comments and  
17 suggestions, they were not asked to endorse the conclusions or recommendations nor did they  
18 see the final draft of the report before its release. The review of this report was overseen by  
19 **[INSERT NAME AND AFFILIATION OF COORDINATOR AND/OR MONITOR]**.  
20 Appointed by the National Research Council, they were **[OR he/she was]** responsible for  
21 making certain that an independent examination of this report was carried out in accordance with  
22 institutional procedures and that all review comments were carefully considered. Responsibility  
23 for the final content of this report rests entirely with the authoring committee and the institution.

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## 1 **Executive Summary**

2  
3 Reflecting their broad interest in the health of America's research enterprise, the  
4 National Academies launched a study in early 2000 on the implications of information  
5 technology for the future of the nation's research university—a social institution of  
6 great importance to our economic strength, national security, and quality of life.

7       The premise of this study was a simple one. Although the rapid evolution of  
8 digital technology will present numerous challenges and opportunities to research  
9 universities, there is a sense that many of the most significant issues are not well  
10 understood by academic administrators, their faculty, and those who support or  
11 depend on the institutions' activities.

12       The study—organized under the Policy and Global Affairs Division of the  
13 National Research Council, and undertaken during the past two years—had two major  
14 objectives:

- 15 • To identify those information technologies likely to evolve in the near term (a  
16 decade or less) that could ultimately have major impact on the research university.
- 17
- 18 • To examine the possible implications of these technologies for the research  
19 university: its activities (teaching, research, service, outreach); its organization,

1 management, and financing; and the impacts on the broader higher-education  
2 enterprise.

3  
4 In pursuit of these ends, a panel was formed that consisted of leaders—drawn  
5 from industry, higher education, and foundations—with expertise in the areas of  
6 information technology, research universities, and public policy. The study process  
7 included several meetings and site visits, a major workshop, and communication by  
8 conference call and email (see Appendixes A and B).

9 Drawing on its own information-gathering activities, as well as on the growing  
10 literature that deals with higher education and information technology, the panel  
11 reached several conclusions that should help guide the future efforts of research  
12 universities and their stakeholders:

- 13
- 14 1. The extraordinary pace of information-technology evolution is likely not only to  
15 continue for the next several decades but could well accelerate. It will erode, and in  
16 some cases obliterate, higher education's usual constraints of space and time.  
17 Institutional barriers will be called into question and possibly transformed.

18



- 1 2. The impact of information technology on the research university will likely be  
2 profound, rapid, and discontinuous—just as it has been and will continue to be for  
3 our other social institutions (e.g., corporations and governments) and the economy.  
4
- 5 3. Digital technology will not only transform the intellectual activities of the research  
6 university but will also change how the university is organized, financed, and  
7 governed. The technology is likely to restructure the current higher-education  
8 enterprise into a global “knowledge and learning” industry.  
9
- 10 4. Procrastination and inaction are the most dangerous courses for colleges and  
11 universities during a time of rapid technological change. To be sure, there are  
12 certain time-honored values and traditions, such as academic freedom, a rational  
13 spirit of inquiry, and liberal learning, that must be maintained and protected. But  
14 just as in earlier times, the university will have to adapt itself if it is to serve a  
15 radically changing world.  
16
- 17 5. Although we are confident that information technology will continue its rapid  
18 evolution for the foreseeable future and may ultimately have profound impacts on  
19 human behavior and social institutions such as the research university, it is far  
20 more difficult to predict these impacts with any precision. Nevertheless, higher

1 education must develop mechanisms to at least *sense* the potential changes and to  
2 aid in the understanding of where the technology may drive it.

- 3
- 4 6. It is therefore important that university strategies include the development of  
5 sufficient in-house expertise among faculty and staff to track technological trends  
6 and assess various courses of action; the opportunity for experimentation; and the  
7 ability to form alliances with other academic institutions as well as for-profit and  
8 governmental organizations.

9

10 The study's discussions and workshops indicated that digital technology is  
11 evolving so rapidly it would be inappropriate to conclude these efforts with an overly  
12 prescriptive set of conclusions and recommendations. Given that the foreseeable  
13 future will be marked by great uncertainty, the panel instead recommends that  
14 research universities and their stakeholders organize a continuing dialogue, with  
15 national and grassroots components. The dialogue would be designed to help research  
16 institutions and the broader higher-education enterprise understand the advances in  
17 information technology and address their potential impacts. It would involve  
18 monitoring specific technological changes and the resulting scholarly, educational,  
19 and social shifts; identifying crucial issues, challenges, and opportunities; stimulating  
20 awareness on the campuses; and identifying action items and areas for further study.



## 1 **Chapter 1: Introduction**

2

3 Our society is now being reshaped by rapid advances in information technology—  
4 computers, telecommunications networks, and other digital systems—that have  
5 vastly increased our capacity to know, achieve, and collaborate (Attali, Brown,  
6 Deming and Metcalfe, Kurzweil). These technologies allow us to transmit  
7 information quickly and widely, linking distant places and diverse areas of  
8 endeavor in productive new ways, and to create communities that were  
9 unimaginable just a decade ago.

10 Of course, our society has been through other periods of dramatic change  
11 before, driven by such technologies as the steam engine, railroad, telephone, and  
12 automobile. But never before have we experienced a technology that is evolving so  
13 rapidly (increasing in power by a hundredfold every decade), altering the  
14 constraints of space and time, and reshaping the way we communicate, learn, and  
15 think.

16 In response, institutions of every stripe are grappling with the need to  
17 transform their basic philosophies and processes. Corporations and governments  
18 are reorganizing in an effort to enhance productivity, improve quality, and control  
19 costs. Entire industries have been restructured to better align themselves with the  
20 realities of the digital age. It is no great exaggeration to say that information

1 technology is fundamentally changing the relationship between people and  
2 knowledge.

3         Yet ironically, in key areas the most knowledge-based entities of all—our  
4 colleges and universities—have thus far been transformed the least. Although  
5 research has in many ways been transformed by information technology, most  
6 other higher-education functions have not. Teaching, for example, is conducted  
7 today much as it was a century ago, with information technology used mostly at  
8 the margins to extend the reach of a classroom-centered, seat-based paradigm.

9         Nevertheless, there are good reasons to believe that digital technologies will  
10 indeed change academia, perhaps beyond recognition (Newman and Scurry;  
11 Hanna). Because they are expanding by orders of magnitude our ability to create,  
12 transfer, and apply knowledge, these technologies will have a profound impact on  
13 both the mission and operation of the university. In particular, the ability of  
14 information technology to mediate communication—indeed, to enable new forms  
15 of human interaction—promises to drive the focus of higher education from  
16 teaching to learning, and it will transform universities from faculty-centered to  
17 learner-centered institutions.

18         American academia has undergone significant change before, beginning  
19 with the establishment of secular education during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Rudolph).  
20 Another transformation resulted from the Land-Grant College Act of 1862 (Morrill

1 Act), which created institutions that served agriculture and industries; academia  
2 was no longer just for the wealthy but charged with providing educational  
3 opportunities to the working class as well. Around 1900, the introduction of  
4 graduate education began to expand the role of the university in training students  
5 for careers, both scholarly and professional. The middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw  
6 two important changes: the G. I. Bill, which provided educational opportunities to  
7 millions of returning veterans; and the research partnership between the federal  
8 government and universities, which stimulated the evolution of the research  
9 university. Looking back, each of these changes seems natural. But at the time,  
10 each involved some reassessment of both the structure and mission of the  
11 university (Wulf 1995).

12         Although it presently lags other sectors in some respects, higher education  
13 has already experienced significant technology-based change. University  
14 researchers in a range of fields have been, and continue to be, “lead users”  
15 (Benner); the Internet, for example, first emerged as a research application of  
16 information technology. Similarly, computer networks are used to enhance  
17 libraries’ intellectual resources, simulate physical phenomena, and link researchers  
18 worldwide in virtual laboratories, or “collaboratories”—advanced, distributed  
19 infrastructures that use multimedia networks to relax the constraints on distance,  
20 time, and even reality (Kiernan; National Research Council 1993, 2001; National

1 Science Board 2000). In addition, university management and administrative  
2 processes have become heavily dependent on information technology.

3 It is expected that the new technology will also have a profound impact on  
4 one of the university's primary activities—teaching—by freeing the classroom  
5 from its physical and temporal bounds and by providing students with access to  
6 original source materials (Gilbert).

7 But while information technology has the capacity to enhance and enrich  
8 teaching and scholarship, it also appears to pose certain threats to our colleges and  
9 universities (Duderstadt; Katz). We can now use powerful computers and networks  
10 to deliver educational services to anyone—any place, any time—freed from the  
11 restrictions of the campus or the academic schedule. Technology is creating an  
12 open learning environment in which the student, no longer compelled to travel to a  
13 particular location in order to participate in a pedagogical process involving tightly  
14 integrated studies based mostly on lectures or seminars by local experts, is  
15 evolving into an active and sophisticated consumer of educational services.

16 Similarly, faculty's scholarly communities are shifting from physical  
17 campuses to virtual ones, globally distributed in cyberspace. And technological  
18 innovations are stimulating the growth of powerful markets for educational  
19 services and the emergence of new for-profit competitors, which could also help  
20 reshape the higher education enterprise (Goldstein; Shea).

1           It is clear that the digital age poses many questions for academia. For  
2           example, what will it mean to be “educated” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How will  
3           academic research be organized and financed? As the constraints of time and space  
4           are relieved by information technology, will the university even continue to exist  
5           as a physical place?

6           In the near term it seems likely that the campus, a geographically  
7           concentrated community of scholars and a center of culture, will indeed remain,  
8           though the current manifestations of higher education may shift. For example,  
9           students may choose to distribute their college experience among residential  
10          campuses, commuter colleges, and online (virtual) universities. They may also  
11          assume more responsibility for, and control over, their education. The scholarly  
12          activities of faculty will more frequently involve technology to access distant  
13          resources and interact with colleagues around the world. The boundaries between  
14          the university and broader society may fade, just as its many roles will become  
15          ever more complex and intertwined with those of other components of the  
16          knowledge and learning enterprise (Brown and Duguid).

17          The digital age should be seen not as posing a threat, however, but as  
18          offering a wealth of opportunities. In that spirit, we must take care not simply to  
19          extrapolate the past but instead to examine the full range of options for the future.  
20          Still, one must not underestimate the degree of uncertainty, confusion, and anxiety



1 presented by, in the immortal words of Pogo, such “insurmountable opportunities.”  
2 While we may successfully predict the near-term evolution of information  
3 technology, it is far more difficult to predict the impact on society and its  
4 institutions. All we can say is that this technology has proven to be disruptive in  
5 character for other sectors of our society. Just as it has driven rapid, significant,  
6 and frequently discontinuous and unpredictable change in those domains, so too  
7 will it present university decision makers not only with exciting prospects but a  
8 decidedly bumpy ride.

9

### 10 **Context for the study**

11 Given their mandate from Congress to advise the federal government on scientific and  
12 technological matters, the presidents of the National Academies (National Academy  
13 of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine) acted on  
14 the above concerns; they launched a project in early 2000, through the National  
15 Research Council (NRC), to better understand the implications of information  
16 technology for research universities. These institutions are key elements of the  
17 national research enterprise, prime movers of the economy, and a critical source of  
18 scientists and engineers. Their wide range of academic functions also makes them  
19 important models for analysis, with broad applicability elsewhere in the university  
20 community.

1           The premise of this study was a simple one. Although the rapid evolution of  
2 digital technology will present numerous challenges and opportunities to research  
3 universities, there is a sense that many of the most significant issues are not well  
4 understood by academic administrators, their faculty, and those who support or  
5 depend on the institutions' activities.

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**Box 1-1: What is a Research University?**

8  
9 The Carnegie Foundation, in its 1994 classification system of colleges and  
10 universities, defined a research university as follows (categories have since been  
11 redefined on the basis of degrees awarded and do not consider the amount of  
12 federal support received):

- 13
- 14           • Offers a full range of baccalaureate programs.
- 15           • Committed to graduate education through the doctorate.
- 16           • Gives high priority to research.
- 17           • Awards 50 or more doctoral degrees each year.
- 18           • Receives at least \$15.5-million a year in federal support.

19  
20           In its updated 2000 classification, the Carnegie Foundation listed 261  
21 doctoral/research universities. As of fall 1998, these institutions enrolled over 4.24  
22 million students (about 28.1% of total enrollment nationwide). These universities  
23 were also the recipients of over \$10 billion in federal research funding in FY 1998  
24 (about 87.9% of all federal research funding granted to higher-education  
25 institutions).

26  
27 Source: Compiled by NRC staff from Carnegie Foundation; Duderstadt 1999;  
28 Kushner; Chronicle of Higher Education.

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31           Primary support for the project was provided by the National Research  
32 Council, with additional support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National

1 Science Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation. The project  
2 was organized under the Policy and Global Affairs Division of the NRC, with staff  
3 and program support from the Government-University-Industry Research  
4 Roundtable.

5 The study had two objectives:

- 6 • To identify those information technologies likely to evolve in the  
7 near term (a decade or less) that could ultimately have major impact  
8 on the research university.
- 9 • To examine the possible implications of these technologies for the  
10 research university: its activities (teaching, research, service,  
11 outreach); its organization, management, and financing; and the  
12 impacts on the broader higher-education enterprise.

13

14 In pursuit of these ends, a panel was formed consisting of leaders from  
15 industry, higher education, and foundations with expertise in the areas of  
16 information technology, research universities, and public policy. Since first  
17 convening in February 2000, the Steering Committee has held a number of  
18 meetings—including site visits to major technology-development centers such as  
19 Lucent [Bell] Laboratories and IBM Research Laboratories—to identify and

1 discuss trends, issues, and options. The major themes addressed by these activities  
2 were:

- 3 • The pace of evolution of information technology.
- 4 • The ubiquitous/pervasive character of the Internet.
- 5 • The relaxation of the conventional constraints of space, time, and  
6 institution.
- 7 • The democratizing character of information technology (the  
8 potential for near-universal access to information, education, and  
9 research).
- 10 • The changing ways in which we handle digital data, information,  
11 and knowledge.
- 12 • The growing importance of intellectual capital relative to physical or  
13 financial capital.

14  
15 In January 2001 a two-day workshop was held at the National Academies—  
16 with the invited participation of about 80 leaders from higher education, industry,  
17 and government—to explore possible strategies for research universities and their  
18 various stakeholders and to provide input on possible follow-up initiatives. The  
19 presentations and discussions of the workshop were videotaped and broadcast on  
20 the Research Channel, and they are currently being videostreamed from its

1 Website in order to help stimulate public discussion  
2 ([www.researchchannel.com/programs](http://www.researchchannel.com/programs)). Members of the panel also participated in a  
3 discussion of the project at the June 2001 meeting of the Government-University-  
4 Industry Research Roundtable.

5 This report, finalized through a series of conference calls and email  
6 exchanges during the second half of 2001, discusses what the panel learned during  
7 the study process. Chapter 2 describes the likely near-future of information  
8 technology; Chapter 3 discusses the implications of this technology for the  
9 research university; and Chapter 4 summarizes the panel's findings and calls for a  
10 continued dialogue among research universities and their stakeholders on these  
11 issues.

12 The panel has tried to maintain a clear and forceful presentation of the  
13 issues. In a number of places, it makes assertions based on its collective judgment,  
14 while taking care to alert readers and appropriately qualify these assertions. Where  
15 possible, the report references the growing literature on information technology  
16 and education to complement the panel's opinions. Yet change is occurring so  
17 rapidly there is high risk that any specific assertion made by individual experts or a  
18 panel such as this one may be proved wrong within a few years. Indeed, a central  
19 theme of the report is that research universities must be prepared to cope in a world

1 of rapid change and continued uncertainty in the area of information technology  
2 and its implications.

3 In addition, while this report focuses on the 261 U.S. doctoral/research  
4 universities, one of the inevitable consequences of the march of information  
5 technology is that these universities will become much more interconnected with  
6 the rest of higher education. Therefore much of the discussion deals with the  
7 broader context in which research universities are but one component.

8 Finally, although its original charge was to develop future scenarios and  
9 provide conclusions and recommendations on policy issues, the panel judged that the  
10 thinking and discussion on research universities and information technology have not  
11 yet advanced to the point where such specificity would be appropriate. The required  
12 expenditures of time and resources would not be justified by the inevitably modest  
13 value-added at this point.

## Chapter 2: Technology Futures

The role of digital technology in the evolving knowledge society is comparable to that of the railroad during the Industrial Revolution (Attali). An extensive network of “tracks” is reaching into the marketplace, government, and our homes and lives. With the aid of high-speed computer and telecommunications systems now interconnecting so much of the world, we often learn about events virtually as soon as they occur; and we are able to process the information in a myriad of increasingly useful ways.

---

“We are going to have a huge shift in the way people access information. . . . Billions of people worldwide are suddenly able to afford basically the same access that we in this room typically enjoy.”—Stuart Feldman, Workshop on the Impact of Information Technology on the Future of the Research University, January 22-23, 2001, Washington, D.C. [www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html](http://www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html)

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These telecommunications systems are leading to the formation of closely bonded, widely dispersed communities of people united by their interest in doing business or in sharing experiences and intellectual pursuits. New forms of knowledge accumulation are developing, as are computer-based learning systems that open the way to innovative modes of instruction and learning (Brown 2000). And new models of libraries are exploiting vast amounts of digital data in

1 physically dispersed computer systems that can be remotely accessed by users over  
2 information networks (National Research Council 2000a). Meanwhile, “virtual  
3 environments,” in which we respond to life-like simulations that are replete with  
4 artificially created sights, sounds, and other stimuli, can liberate us from physical  
5 restrictions; current targets for application include medicine as well as distance  
6 education (Olsen; Young).

7         The effective use of knowledge in such forms may well invalidate many of  
8 the current assumptions about education in general and the research university in  
9 particular (Hanna, Wulf 1995). Thus information technology is a major challenge  
10 to the creativity and intent of faculty, students, and all else who are involved in the  
11 higher-education enterprise.

12         The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of information-  
13 technology advances that the panel expects to see over the next decade. Two  
14 caveats should be kept in mind. First, the focus of the chapter is on anticipated  
15 hardware advances. Yet equivalent advances are not being made in software. We  
16 face major challenges in cracking the “complexity barrier” in software and  
17 developing software systems that diagnosis, repair, and protect themselves  
18 (National Research Council 2002, 2000b). Software’s “immune system” doesn’t  
19 yet exist, and until it does we may not realize the full potential of the networked  
20 world.



1           The second caveat is to not confuse technological feasibility with business  
2 and social reality. Changes in technology will be enormous over the next ten years  
3 (not to mention the next twenty), and the *rate* of change is increasing. But  
4 individuals, as well as social institutions like the university, cannot rapidly change  
5 their behaviors. One of the university's greatest challenges will be managing this  
6 great discrepancy and exploiting the new technological capabilities as best it can.  
7 Such challenges are addressed in Chapter 3.

8

### 9   **An extraordinary evolution**

10 It is difficult to appreciate just how quickly information technology is evolving.  
11 Four decades ago, one of the earliest computers, ENIAC, stood 10 feet tall,  
12 stretched 80 feet wide, included more than 17,000 vacuum tubes, and weighed  
13 about 30 tons. Today you can buy a musical greeting card with a silicon chip that is  
14 100 times faster than ENIAC (Huey). Moreover, the time between such  
15 improvements is rapidly shrinking. A \$1,000 notebook computer now has more  
16 computing horsepower than a \$20-million supercomputer of the early 1990s.

17           This extraordinary pace of information-technology evolution is not only  
18 expected to continue for the foreseeable future but could well accelerate. For  
19 example, the newest supercomputers are capable of performing over 10 trillion  
20 calculations per second. And computers yet a thousand times faster are currently

1 under development for applications such as the calculation of protein folding  
2 (McDonald).

3 For the first several decades of the information age, the evolution of digital  
4 technology followed the trajectory predicted by “Moore’s Law”—a 1965  
5 observation by Intel founder Gordon Moore that the density of transistors on a chip  
6 doubles every 18 months or so, thereby making it twice as powerful as before (or,  
7 alternatively viewed, half as costly). Although this “law” was intended to  
8 characterize silicon-based microprocessors alone, it turns out that almost every  
9 aspect of digital technology has advanced at an exponential pace, with some  
10 technologies moving forward even faster (Wulf 1995). For example, disk areal  
11 density—the number of bits per square inch that can be put on a disk—has been  
12 growing 100 percent (i.e., doubling) every 12 months in recent years and is  
13 expected to continue at that rate over the near future.<sup>1</sup>

14 Actually, the most dramatic impact of information technology on our world  
15 today results not from the continuing increase in computing power but rather from  
16 the extraordinary growth of bandwidth—the rate at which we can transmit digital  
17 data (Feldman). In the mid- to late 1980s, 300 bit-per-second modems were in  
18 wide use; now the local-area networks in our offices and homes are at 10-100  
19 megabits per second and the backbone communications for linking regional  
20 networks together typically run at 155 megabits. A fair amount, however, is

1 already happening at 2.5 gigabits per second; and with the rapid deployment of  
2 fiber-optic cables and optical switching, terabit-per-second networks are just  
3 around the corner (Kahney). According to one market forecast of the next five  
4 years, fiber-optic cable will be installed throughout the world at the rate of over  
5 14,000 mph, despite the severe spending slump afflicting the telecommunications  
6 industry as this report was being prepared.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, researchers are already  
7 experimenting with moving data at speeds of petabits per second.

8  
9

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#### 10 **Box 2-1: Prefixes Used in this Report**

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16

Mega- =  $10^6$ , or a million

Giga- =  $10^9$ , or a billion

Tera- =  $10^{12}$ , or a trillion

Peta- =  $10^{15}$ , or a quadrillion

---

17  
18

19 IBM reports success in the lab with communications in the 8- to 10-petabit  
20 range, and plans are already being made to move such bandwidths into the  
21 marketplace (McGarvey). Some Internet service providers expect to be employing  
22 them in perhaps three to five years for their internal traffic. For global  
23 communications, intercontinental bandwidth has recently increased from a  
24 relatively sclerotic 45 megabits to 88-100 gigabits, made possible by new fibers  
laid under the major oceans.<sup>3</sup>

1 From the average user's point of view, the conservative doubling rate of  
2 Moore's Law corresponds to a one-hundredfold increase in computing speed,  
3 storage capacity, and network-transmission rates every decade. At that rate, today's  
4 \$1,000 notebook computer will, by the year 2020, have a computing speed of 1  
5 million gigahertz, a memory of thousands of terabytes, and linkages to networks at  
6 data transmission speeds of gigabits per second.

7 Put another way, that notebook computer will have astounding processing  
8 and memory capacities. Except it will be so tiny as to be almost invisible, and it  
9 will communicate with billions of other computers and electronic devices through  
10 wireless technology and global networks—what Lucent (Bell) Laboratories calls a  
11 “global communications skin” (Lucent 2000). Such a system, expected to be  
12 technically feasible within two decades, would be able to handle a great many of  
13 society's routine tasks, from driving our cars to monitoring our health.

14

### 15 **An Internet-driven economy**

16 The nature of human interaction with the digital world—and with other humans  
17 through computer-based networks—is also evolving. New screen displays, such as  
18 one that places nine megapixels on the equivalent of a two-page spread, provide  
19 resolutions noticeably better than paper. It's no longer a question of enduring  
20 mediocre “I'll put up with this screen” resolution, but one of superlative “I would

1 really like to have it” quality. Advances are being made in other hardware as well.  
2 Thin, readable, and flexible electronic books, for example, are considered “in-the-  
3 bag” technology for broad commercialization over the next few years, as are  
4 “computers on a wristwatch” and “knowledge in your pocket” (microdrives, no  
5 bigger than a quarter, with capacities of one gigabyte, or about 1000 reasonably  
6 hefty books).

7 All the while, we are moving beyond the simple text interactions of  
8 electronic mail and electronic conferencing to graphical user interfaces (e.g., the  
9 Mac or Windows) to voice to video, and next-generation interfaces may use retinal  
10 displays—in which lasers paint images directly on the retina of the eye to portray  
11 360-degree immersive environments. With the rapid development of sensors and  
12 robotic actuators, touch and action at a distance—already a reality in robot-assisted  
13 surgery—may soon be generally available as well.

14 Thus the world of the user could be marked by increasing technological  
15 sophistication. With virtual reality, individuals may routinely communicate with  
16 one another through simulated environments, or “telepresence,” perhaps delegating  
17 their own software representations—digital agents—to interact in a virtual world  
18 with those of their colleagues. As communications technology increases in power  
19 by one-hundredfold (or more) each decade, such digitally mediated human  
20 interactions could take place with essentially any degree of fidelity desired.

1           Predictions like these may seem like fantasy, but consider the record: the  
2 penetration of digital technology into our society has proceeded at a remarkable  
3 pace. In less than a decade, the Internet has evolved from a relatively obscure  
4 research network to a commercial infrastructure now actively utilized by 61  
5 percent of U.S. households and essentially all of our schools and businesses  
6 (Gartner Group 2001). On the global level, the Internet already connects hundreds  
7 of millions of people with one another, and estimates are that by the end of the  
8 decade, this number could grow into the billions—a substantial fraction of the  
9 world’s population.<sup>4</sup> Such growth is expected to continue despite, or perhaps as a  
10 result of, the recent rude awakenings of e-business investors to the realities of the  
11 marketplace.

12           More uncertain than the technological trajectory is the business  
13 environment, which will greatly influence when advanced capabilities reach the  
14 marketplace. Specific forecasts should be treated skepticism. For example,  
15 forecasts of the 2004 worldwide e-commerce market made in early 2001 ranged  
16 from \$1.4 trillion to \$10 trillion (Butler 2001). In addition, the overall U.S. and  
17 world economies experienced significant slowdowns during the year prior to  
18 publication of this report. Still, even revised market forecasts predict continued  
19 growth in information-technology-related industries, and this growth is expected to  
20 accelerate as business conditions improve. Although the exact pace is difficult to

1 predict, the clear trend is that growth in business-to-business commerce will be  
2 Internet-driven.

3       Access to computers and the Internet, and the ability to use this technology,  
4 are thus becoming increasingly important to full participation in our nation's  
5 economic, political, and social life. Furthermore, the transition from phone links to  
6 broadband—and, eventually, fiber optics—will transform the current drippy faucet  
7 of modem connectivity to a deluge of gigabits-per-second into our homes, schools,  
8 and places of work.

9       According to one estimate, by 2004 there will be over 1.3 billion net-enabled  
10 cellular phones or personal digital appliances (e.g., Palm Pilots) in the world, and  
11 these devices will be “asymptotically cheap”—costing only tens, not thousands, of  
12 dollars—and inexorably getting cheaper yet (Feldman 2001). Put another way,  
13 over the next decade we could move from “giga” technology (in terms of computer  
14 operations per second, storage capacities, and data-transmission rates) all the way  
15 to “peta” technology—petabit networks, petabyte databases, and petaflop  
16 (quadrillion instructions per second) computing for those applications that need it.  
17 We will denominate the number of computer servers in the billions, digital sensors  
18 in the tens of billions, and software agents in the trillions.

1           In effect, we will evolve from “e-commerce,” “e-government,” and “e-  
2 learning” to just about “e-everything” as digital devices increasingly become the  
3 primary interfaces not only with our environment but with other people.

3

<sup>1</sup> At the time this report went to press, an illustrative chart could be found on the IBM website ([www.storage.ibm.com/hdd/technolo/grochows/g02.htm](http://www.storage.ibm.com/hdd/technolo/grochows/g02.htm)).

<sup>2</sup> According to Kharif 2001, fiber-optic market consultants KMI Corp. predict that carriers will bury 617 million miles of fiber-optic cable over the next five years. Dividing this by the number of hours in five years (43,800) yields a rate of over 14,000 miles per hour.

<sup>3</sup> See Teleography, Inc. 2001. The study indicates that trans-Pacific bandwidth capability increased from 14 gigabits to 244 gigabits per second by the end of 2000, with trans-Atlantic capability at about 550 gigabits per second, and U.S.-Latin American bandwidth capability at about 290 gigabits per second. Bear in mind, however, that this is all backbone cable, and not what anyone could dial into.

<sup>4</sup> The July 2001 survey by the Internet Software Consortium located over 125 million unique computer “hosts” on the Internet. Given that some hosts may have multiple users, it is impossible to estimate the total number of end users. According to Matrix Net Systems, if the same rate of growth of recent years is sustained, the Internet will cross the 1 billion host mark in 2005 (Internet Software Consortium; Matrix Net Systems).



### Chapter 3: Implications for the Research University

“Are these the shadows of the things that *will* be, or are they the shadows of the things that *may* be?” Thus did a terrified Ebenezer Scrooge (in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*) beseech his supernatural guide after a vision of the “future” that included the worst-case scenario of his own graceless demise.

Scrooge of course came to learn, as we all eventually do, that not only is it hard to predict the future with any accuracy but that one can actively work to help shape it. Projections are merely possibilities, some more plausible than others, but all depend on how an enormous set of variables—many of them not quantifiable—actually play out, with and without our intervention.

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“Can an institution such as the university, which has existed for a millennium and become an icon of our social fabric, disappear in a few decades because of technology? Of course. If you doubt it, check on the state of the family farm.” – Wm. A. Wulf (Duderstadt)

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This chapter provides an overview of the unprecedented technology-driven challenges currently being faced by higher education, and by research universities in particular. These challenges are sufficiently great that even the worst-case scenario—the end of the university, an institution that has existed for a millennium and truly become “an icon of our social fabric”—appears to some to be a distinct possibility. The reasoning behind such an extreme prediction is that although the

1 university has survived earlier periods of technology-driven social change with its  
2 basic structure and role more-or-less intact, the changes being induced by  
3 information technology are different because they alter the fundamental  
4 relationship between people and knowledge. Thus the technology could profoundly  
5 reshape the activities of all institutions, such as the university, whose central  
6 function is the creation, preservation, integration, transmission, or application of  
7 knowledge.

8         The panel believes that while the university as a physical place is not in  
9 danger of disappearing any time soon, it is nevertheless critical for the higher-  
10 education community to avoid trying to preserve the status quo.<sup>5</sup> It must prepare  
11 itself for change by reconsidering the academic culture that sometimes allows the  
12 demand for consensus to thwart action, and in which consultation is often defined  
13 as consent.

14         It is encouraging that some challenges of information technology are already  
15 being addressed by the higher-education enterprise. For example, regular sections  
16 on information technology and distance education have been features of *The*  
17 *Chronicle of Higher Education* for some time. In addition, the long list of  
18 references for this report and the involvement of not-for-profit education providers  
19 (see examples in Box 3-1), as well as for-profit entities, indicate that a great deal of  
20 activity has occurred and is continuing.

1

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2 **Box 3-1: Organizations and Activities Related to Information Technology and**  
3 **Research Universities**

4

5 **EDUCAUSE** ([www.educause.edu](http://www.educause.edu)) is a nonprofit association whose mission is to  
6 advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information  
7 technology. Membership is open to institutions of higher education, corporations  
8 serving the higher-education information-technology market, and other related  
9 associations and organizations.

10

11 **FORUM FOR THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

12 ([emcc.mit.edu/forum](http://emcc.mit.edu/forum)) The Forum, consisting of academic leaders and scholars  
13 from across the country who convene annually, facilitates shared inquiry and  
14 collaboration on issues—primarily in economics, strategy, and technology and  
15 learning—likely to influence the future of higher education. The Forum sponsors  
16 research, presents findings, and disseminates information throughout the higher-  
17 education community. It is an independent, nonprofit organization affiliated with  
18 Yale University.

19

20 **Vision 2010** ([www.si.umich.edu/V2010/home.html](http://www.si.umich.edu/V2010/home.html)) is a project, hosted at the  
21 University of Michigan, that is concerned with how higher education might be  
22 transformed by information technology.

23

24 **The Futures Project** ([www.futuresproject.org/](http://www.futuresproject.org/)), hosted by Brown University's A.  
25 Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions, aims to  
26 stimulate an informed debate on the role of higher education in the new global  
27 society. It is particularly interested in the opportunities and dangers of a global  
28 market for higher education, and in the development of policies that ensure a  
29 skilled use of market forces to enhance opportunities while minimizing the risks.

30

31 **Knight Higher Education Collaborative** ([www.irhe.upenn.edu/knight/knight-](http://www.irhe.upenn.edu/knight/knight-)  
32 [main.html](http://www.irhe.upenn.edu/knight/knight-main.html)) Sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the  
33 Collaborative is composed of institutions and state systems of higher education that  
34 work together on policy issues of broad interest and importance. The Collaborative  
35 is “housed” administratively at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for  
36 Research on Higher Education (IRHE) and builds on the work started by the Pew  
37 Charitable Trust Higher Education Roundtable. The IRHE, headed by Dr. Robert

1 Zemsky, publishes the widely read *Policy Perspectives* series, and has convened  
2 and facilitated over 250 roundtables since 1986.

3  
4 **OpenCourseWare (OCW)** ([web.mit.edu/ocw/](http://web.mit.edu/ocw/)) is an MIT project in which the  
5 Institute will make nearly all materials from its courses freely available on the Web  
6 for noncommercial use. Depending on the particular class or the style in which the  
7 course is taught, this could include materials such as lecture notes, course outlines,  
8 reading lists, and assignments. More technologically sophisticated content will be  
9 encouraged.

10  
11 Source: Compiled by NRC staff from organization Websites.

12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13       However, experts within and outside academia observe that there is still a  
14 great deal of complacency in research universities, and that more intensive and  
15 structured communication at the national and campus levels is necessary.<sup>6</sup> The  
16 university could fare better in the future if it develops mechanisms to sense the  
17 changes being wrought by information technology, speculates broadly on possible  
18 effects, and then responds accordingly—with carefully considered strategies  
19 backed up by prudent investments—not just to avoid extinction but to actively  
20 cultivate opportunity.

21       Learning and scholarship do require some independence from society. But  
22 the rapid and substantial changes in store for the university require that academics  
23 work with the many stakeholders of the university to learn their evolving needs,  
24 expectations, and perceptions of higher education as various forces alter the world.  
25 For example, universities may be obliged to place a far greater emphasis on

1 forming alliances that allow individual institutions not to try to be all things to all  
2 people but to focus instead on their unique strengths.

3       Universities will have to function in a highly digital environment along with  
4 other organizations as almost every academic function will be affected, and  
5 sometimes displaced, by modern technology. The ways that universities manage  
6 their resources, relate to clients and providers, and conduct their affairs will have to  
7 be consistent not only with the nature of their own enterprise but also with the  
8 reality of “e-everything.” As competitors appear, and in many cases provide more  
9 effective and less costly alternatives, universities will be forced to embrace new  
10 techniques themselves or outsource some of their functions.

11       In any case, the panel believes that universities should strive to become  
12 learning organizations themselves. This would involve encouraging  
13 experimentation with new paradigms of education, research, and service by  
14 harvesting the best ideas, implementing them on a sufficient scale to assess their  
15 impacts, and disseminating their fruitful results.

---

16 “Most organizations do a considerable amount of research about their own  
17 functioning. I’m sure that IBM, to take an arbitrary example, spends a tremendous  
18 amount of money thinking about IBM and how IBM might function better. Not the  
19 university.”—Don Norman, Workshop on the Impact of Information Technology  
20 on the Future of the Research University, January 22-23, 2001, Washington, D.C.  
21 [www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html](http://www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html)

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22

1           Such self-examination and self-improvement by the research university in  
2 particular should include the following issues, each of which is analyzed further—  
3 not as prognostication but in the spirit of “shadows of the things that may be”—in  
4 the remaining sections of this chapter:

- 5           • The university’s fundamental activities of education and research.
- 6           • The preservation and communication of scholarly knowledge.
- 7           • The university’s basic form, function, and financing.
- 8           • The effect of a changing university on the higher-education enterprise  
9           generally.

### 11 **Education in tune with the times**

12 Although it has been slow in coming, we’re beginning to see the impact of  
13 information technology on teaching, and it seems to be driven not so much by  
14 faculty or administrators but rather by the learners themselves. Today’s “digital  
15 generation” of media-savvy students requires new forms of pedagogy.<sup>7</sup> Having  
16 spent their early lives amid visual electronic media such as video games, they  
17 approach learning as a “plug-and-play” experience. They expect—indeed,  
18 demand—interaction; and they are unaccustomed to learning sequentially (e.g., to  
19 reading the manual). Instead, they’re inclined simply to jump in.

1           We envision a future, enabled by information technology and driven by  
2 learner demand, in which two of the major (and taken-for-granted) ways of  
3 organizing undergraduate learning will recede in importance: the 55-minute  
4 classroom lecture and the common reading list. That future will challenge faculty  
5 to design technology-based experiences based primarily on interactive,  
6 collaborative learning. Although these new approaches will be quite different from  
7 traditional ones, they may be far more effective, particularly when provided  
8 through a media-rich environment (Hanna).

9           Such changes also imply a different student-faculty relationship than has  
10 traditionally been the case. Students may be more involved in the creation of  
11 learning environments, working shoulder to shoulder with the faculty just as they  
12 do when serving as research assistants. In that context, student and professor alike  
13 are apt to be experts, though in different domains.

14           The faculty member of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century university could thus become more  
15 of a consultant or coach than a teacher, less concerned with transmitting  
16 intellectual content directly than with inspiring, motivating, and managing an  
17 active learning process. That is, faculty may come to interact with undergraduates  
18 in ways that resemble how they interact with their doctoral students today.

19           Higher education is already heavily wired, with 90 percent of four-year-  
20 college students going online at least once a day (Greenfield Online). But in

1 keeping with the academy's customary taste for incremental change, it was natural  
2 that the earliest applications of information technology on campus involved the  
3 enhancement of traditional courses. For example, electronic mail and computer  
4 conferencing were used to augment classroom discussions, while the Internet  
5 provided access to original source materials. Meanwhile, the first applications of  
6 computer-aided-instruction technology attempted to automate the more routine  
7 aspects of learning.

8 In other words, consistent with its early applications of other technologies,  
9 higher education tended to use digital networks simply to repurpose the traditional  
10 lecture course for online access (Newman and Scurry 2000). Similarly, multimedia  
11 networks were used to enable distance learning. In general, however, this was  
12 simply an Internet extension of correspondence or broadcast courses.

13 The most dramatic impacts on university education are yet to come—when  
14 learning experiences are reconceptualized to capture the power of information  
15 technology. Although the classroom is unlikely to disappear, at least as a place  
16 where students and faculty can regularly come together, the traditional lecture  
17 format—of a faculty member addressing a group of relatively passive students—is  
18 threatened by powerful new tools such as the simulation of physical phenomena,  
19 gaming technology, teleimmersion, and telepresence. Sophisticated networks and  
20 software environments can be used to break the classroom loose from the



1 constraints of place and time to make learning available any place, any time, and to  
2 any one.

3         The attractiveness of computer-mediated distance learning, or “distributed  
4 learning,” is obvious to adult learners whose work or family obligations bar their  
5 routine presence on conventional campuses. At the United Kingdom’s Open  
6 University, for example, some classes even involve remote study groups and labs  
7 where students may still come face to face with each other, though far removed  
8 from the main campus. ([www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)).

9         But perhaps a more surprising application of computer-based distance  
10 learning is the degree to which many on-campus students are now using it to  
11 augment their traditional education. Broadband digital networks and multicasting  
12 can be used to enhance the multimedia capacity of hundreds of classrooms across  
13 campus and link them with residence halls and libraries. Electronic mail has  
14 already altered faculty-student interactions in fundamental ways; professors are  
15 now much more accessible to their students, as well as to the wider world, than  
16 was the case just a few years ago. The apparent downside for some is a decline in  
17 informal interactions during office hours and other face-to-face settings.  
18 (Connolly).

19         Meanwhile, it is anticipated that by the end of 2002 over 80 percent of the  
20 four-year colleges in the United States will be offering distributed learning courses

1 to more than two million off-campus students (Merrill Lynch). Some estimate that  
2 within the next five years the market for such technology-based instruction to be in  
3 excess of 30 million in the United States and well over 100 million globally  
4 (Merrill Lynch). Little wonder that there has been explosive activity in the  
5 commercial sector to create both the content and technology that support this  
6 enterprise.

7         Developing and deploying high-quality distributed learning curricula can be  
8 difficult and expensive, however. Creating online courses is considerably more  
9 complex than simply posting lecture notes or PowerPoint presentations on the Web  
10 or videostreaming the “talking heads” of lecturing professors. Thus universities are  
11 increasingly outsourcing much of the technology and expertise necessary for  
12 distributed learning from commercial providers, such as Blackboard.com and  
13 WebCT, which produce course-management systems. The latter company also  
14 develops and distributes content in partnership with several educational  
15 publishers.<sup>8</sup>

16         Further, we are beginning to see the emergence of a new type of  
17 institution—the virtual university. These entities exist only in cyberspace, without  
18 campus or perhaps even faculty, solely to provide distributed-learning  
19 opportunities. Unburdened by most of the usual academic constraints, such virtual  
20 universities can experiment with a variety of new forms. Some, such as Michigan

1 Virtual University (www.mivu.org), serve only as brokers, providing marketing  
2 channels that allow traditional colleges and universities to serve as “suppliers” of  
3 educational services to a distributed marketplace.

4       There are also examples of companies creating online universities by  
5 disaggregating the overall production of educational programs and selectively  
6 outsourcing each component.<sup>9</sup> They hire the faculties of research universities (to  
7 determine content), cognitive scientists (to develop pedagogy and courseware), and  
8 instructors (to guide students and develop assessment tools to monitor learning).  
9 Similarly, the commercial functions of marketing and distribution can also be  
10 disaggregated and outsourced.

---

11 “Our traditional way of thinking—that once we have the students on our campus  
12 they’re a captive audience—from my point of view is dead. We have started  
13 pursuing new and ambitious collaborations with other universities.”—Richard  
14 Larson, Workshop on the Impact of Information Technology on the Future of the  
15 Research University, January 22-23, 2001, Washington, D.C.  
16 [www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html](http://www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html)

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17  
18       Even as the number of students and institutions participating in distance  
19 education grows, it is not clear which business models or organizational forms will  
20 ultimately succeed. During the time that the panel was completing this study,  
21 several for-profit distance-education subsidiaries launched by universities either  
22 went under or showed clear signs of stress (Carlson and Carnevale, Blumenstyk,  
23 Shea). One criticism of current initiatives is that they often involve merely putting

1 classroom offerings online without fundamentally rethinking their approaches  
2 (Young 2001b). Clearly, the notion that distance education through the Internet  
3 would generate substantial revenues quickly and easily has been dispelled. At the  
4 same time, there is growing institutional interest in fostering creation of  
5 nonproprietary, open-course content and management tools (Young 2001a, Carr).

6 By whatever route, distributed learning based on computer-mediated  
7 paradigms allows universities to push their campus boundaries outward to serve  
8 diverse types of learners. It also facilitates new forms of pedagogy more responsive  
9 to a knowledge-based society—in which learning becomes a pervasive, lifetime  
10 need. Thus the traditional paradigm of “just-in-case” degree-based education may  
11 be augmented, or replaced, by paradigms of “just in time” and customized “just-  
12 for-you”—whereby learners will have increased responsibility to select, design,  
13 and control the learning environment.

14

### 15 **Research unbounded**

16 So, too, is information technology changing the nature of research. The earliest  
17 applications, often limited by computer capacity, were directed to solving  
18 relatively simple mathematical problems in science and technology. Today,  
19 available processing power is much less of a constraint; problems that used to

1 require the computational capacity of rooms full of supercomputers can now be  
2 tackled with laptop machines.

3         The rapid evolution of this technology is also enabling scientists to address  
4 previously unsolvable problems—custom-designing new organic molecules,  
5 analyzing the complex dynamics of the global climate, or simulating the birth of  
6 the universe, just to cite a few. In fact, the use of information technology to  
7 simulate natural phenomena has created a fourth modality of research, on a par  
8 with observation, theory, and experimentation.

9         New types of research organizations, such as “collaboratories,” are appearing  
10 that could not have existed without this new technology (National Research Council  
11 2001a, 1993). Recognizing that information technology is a crucial enabler of  
12 advances across a wide range of scientific and engineering fields, both new and  
13 established, the National Science Foundation is developing a Cyberinfrastructure  
14 Initiative to better integrate instruments, sensors, supercomputers, and high-speed  
15 communications networks (Trimble).

16         Actually, some of the most powerful applications of information technology  
17 have already begun occurring in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.  
18 Scholars now use digital libraries such as JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)) or ArtSTOR to  
19 access, search, and analyze complete collections of scholarly journals or digital  
20 images of artistic objects (Mellon Foundation 2001). Archeologists are developing

1 virtual-reality simulations of remote sites and original materials, such as papyrus  
2 manuscripts, that can be accessed by colleagues throughout the world.

3         Meanwhile, social scientists are using powerful software tools to analyze  
4 massive data sets of materials collected through interviews and field studies. And  
5 practitioners of the visual and performing arts are applying technologies that merge  
6 various media—fine art, music, dance, theatre, architecture—and exploit all the  
7 senses (visual, aural, tactile, even olfactory) to create new art forms and  
8 experiences.

---

9 “Can the research university survive the locomotive of the IT revolution? I think a  
10 much better way to frame the question is: how can the highly valued mission of  
11 scientific, technological, humanistic productivity and human-capital growth  
12 enabled by the research university best be augmented and turbocharged by the IT  
13 revolution?” –Tim Killeen, Workshop on the Impact of Information Technology on  
14 the Future of the Research University, January 22-23, 2001, Washington, D.C.  
15 [www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html](http://www.research.channel.com/programs/na/itfru.html)

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16  
17         Other, more subtle changes in scholarship are occurring that can be related  
18 to emerging information technology, which inherently leverages and enhances  
19 intellectual span. The process of creating new knowledge is shifting from the  
20 solitary scholar to teams of scholars, often spread over a number of disciplines.  
21 This technology also provides the tools—based on artificial intelligence or virtual  
22 reality, for example—to even augment the production of knowledge itself. For  
23 example, the interdisciplinary field of automated scientific discovery is receiving

1 more attention as the number and accessibility of large databases—e.g., the human  
2 genome—increases (Darden). Theorem-proving software is commercially  
3 available ([www.transpowercorp.com](http://www.transpowercorp.com)). Less restricted to the analysis of what has  
4 been, we may effectively create what has *never* been—drawing rather more on the  
5 creative experience of the artist than on the analytical skills of the scientist.

6       Of the research-university roles examined in this chapter, research would  
7 appear to be the one that institutions are best prepared to adapt to new realities.  
8 Indeed, federally funded university research has played a critically important role  
9 in creating and nurturing the very technologies discussed here (National Research  
10 Council 1999).

11       But while the research university may face relatively greater information-  
12 technology challenges in teaching, outreach, and management than in research, the  
13 research-related challenges are not trivial. Maintaining the federal government-  
14 university partnership as a driver in the pursuit of fundamental knowledge and as  
15 an engine of U.S. and global innovation will require strong commitment from both  
16 partners. New modes of cooperation across agencies, institutions, and departments  
17 may be needed to fund and effectively utilize the cyberinfrastructure that will  
18 enable tomorrow's breakthroughs.

19       Given the intensely global nature of today's research, with growing  
20 collaboration across distance enabled by information technology, the way U.S.

1 research universities harness new technology in the service of science and  
2 engineering is critical not only at home. It is bound to affect scholars and  
3 institutions around the world.

4

### 5 **Preserving and communicating knowledge**

6 The preservation of scholarly knowledge is one of the most rapidly changing  
7 functions of the university. The computer, or more precisely the “digital  
8 convergence” of various media—from print to graphics to sound to sensory  
9 experiences through virtual reality—may ultimately have a greater impact on  
10 knowledge than the printing press.

11       Throughout the centuries, the intellectual focal point of the university has  
12 been its library, its collection of written works preserving the knowledge of  
13 civilization. Today such knowledge exists in numerous forms, and it exists almost  
14 literally in the ether—distributed in digital representations over worldwide  
15 networks—accessible to many, and certainly not the prerogative of the privileged  
16 few in academe.

17       For example, the hypertext link is overshadowing the print bibliographic  
18 citation, making original source materials available to all via their own computers.  
19 But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The distinction between the book and the  
20 library may itself become blurred as the Internet evolves into a seamless mesh for



1 probing the world's "collection." Similarly, because knowledge is not inherently  
2 compartmentalized, some disciplinary boundaries may actually devolve. Even  
3 without the Internet, Albert Einstein maintained that many of the most critical  
4 research challenges lay at the intersections of disciplines. Technology is now  
5 increasingly in hand for exploring those intersections.

6         The library is thus becoming less of a collection house and more of a center  
7 for knowledge navigation, a facilitator of information retrieval and dissemination.  
8 And if they are sufficiently skilled and connected, scholars and students may  
9 bypass the library altogether and go directly to the source. As with learning, new  
10 electronic media allow the formation of spontaneous communities of unacquainted  
11 users, linked together in the many-to-many topology of computer networks.  
12 Researchers can now follow the work in their specialization on a day-by-day basis  
13 through Websites.

14         Yet even today, scholarship is still characterized and constrained by the  
15 publication of research results, though this system is fast getting competition as a  
16 result of new information technologies (Odlyzko). The resulting confusion has not  
17 yet been resolved: traditional scholarly publication, through established (and  
18 extraordinarily costly) journals characterized by peer review, is being challenged  
19 by less formal Net-based communication that links scholars essentially  
20 instantaneously. And here too, technology is evolving. For example, Websites are

1 increasingly serving as portals to integrate material of value to particular scholarly  
2 pursuits.<sup>10</sup> Ultimately, the most profound changes will involve software agents that  
3 collect, organize, relate, and summarize knowledge on behalf of their human  
4 masters.

5         Meanwhile, our capacity to reproduce and distribute digital information with  
6 perfect accuracy at essentially zero cost has shaken the very foundations of  
7 copyright and patent law, and it promises to affect notions of ownership of  
8 intellectual property altogether. The legal and economic management of university  
9 intellectual property is rapidly becoming one of the most critical and complex  
10 issues facing higher education (National Research Council, 2001d).

11

### 12 **Impact on the Form, Function, and Financing of the University**

13 Just as new forms of teaching, researching, and preserving knowledge are being  
14 stimulated by rapidly evolving information technology, so too will the university's  
15 organization, management, governance, and relationships with students, faculty,  
16 and staff require serious reevaluation and almost-certain change. For example, the  
17 new tools of scholarship and scholarly communication will erode conventional  
18 disciplinary boundaries, likely extending the intellectual interests and activities of  
19 faculty far beyond traditional academic units such as departments or schools  
20 (National Research Council 2001a).

1           Beyond driving a restructuring of the intellectual disciplines, information  
2 technology could force a significant disaggregation of many traditional university  
3 services, ranging from student housing to health care to teaching itself (Massy;  
4 Newman 2001; Weiland). Colleges and universities will increasingly face the  
5 question of whether they should continue their full complement of activities or  
6 outsource some functions to lower-cost and frequently higher-quality providers.

7           This will pose a particular challenge to faculty, long accustomed to  
8 controlling the design of curriculum and supervising the learning environment.  
9 Higher education as a cottage industry, in which individual courses are made to  
10 order by individual faculty, may not be able to compete much longer in either cost  
11 or quality with commodity educational products that are developed by experts and  
12 distributed by professionals (Newman and Couturier).

13           Similarly, universities will face a major challenge in retaining instructional  
14 “mindshare” among their most accomplished faculty. Higher education adapted  
15 long ago to the reality of faculty members negotiating release time and very  
16 substantial freedom with regard to research activities. There may be new  
17 challenges as instructional content becomes a valuable commodity in a for-profit  
18 education marketplace (Thompson). Some would argue that faculty members  
19 should be free to contract with outside organizations in developing instructional  
20 learningware; such activity is analogous to scholars authoring textbooks and

1 retaining the royalties. Others maintain that institutions have an ownership interest  
2 in such intellectual property. Could policies to restrict such activity be acceptable,  
3 or enforceable, in the highly competitive marketplace that exists for leading  
4 faculty?

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5 “I would allege that the change we’re facing is truly discontinuous, in  
6 organizations adapted to small, incremental, continuous change. It isn’t as if the  
7 universities have not changed. But when there’s a new technology of the  
8 magnitude that we’re discussing, discontinuity puts additional stresses on the  
9 institutions.”—Marye Anne Fox, Workshop on the Impact of Information  
10 Technology on the Future of the Research University, January 22-23, 2001,  
11 Washington, D.C. [www.researchchannel.com/programs/na/itfru.html](http://www.researchchannel.com/programs/na/itfru.html)

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12

13 It is possible that we’ll ultimately see an “unbundling” of faculty and  
14 students from the university, with faculty members acting as freelance consultants,  
15 selling their services and knowledge to the highest bidder; and students acting as  
16 mobile consumers, able to procure educational services from a highly competitive  
17 marketplace (Brown 1996). Even short of this extreme vision, information  
18 technology will likely allow at least some research university and higher-education  
19 functions to be “unbundled”—and, where useful, “rebundled” in new ways.

20 Movement toward this model would pose a number of challenges to  
21 institutions. For example, a student is now considered officially educated when he  
22 or she has taken the required credits. But the panel believes that significant  
23 learning happens in the “white spaces” between courses and classes—in the heady

1 atmosphere of scholarship and debate that permeates research universities.  
2 Transcripts of courses taken thus underestimate a student's education. This  
3 problem is apt to be exacerbated as we (correctly) push for more flexibility in how,  
4 when, and where we learn.

5         In contrast to the image of "free agent" professors reaping profits from their  
6 learningware, there is an alternative scenario in which incentives for faculty to  
7 create new information-technology-based approaches to education are too weak. If  
8 the business environment for educational software and contentware is not as  
9 favorable as some have anticipated, a gifted young professor might be committing  
10 professional suicide by spending huge amounts of time creating it. This is a  
11 particular risk in research universities, where such activities are not currently an  
12 advantage in gaining tenure.

13         The university faces a particular challenge not only in rewarding the creation  
14 of new learning environments, but in ensuring a technology-literate faculty in the  
15 first place. Some faculty members have not kept pace with technology's evolution,  
16 and they are unprepared for the new plug-and-play generation of students.

17         According to a recent survey of senior information-technology administrators, 40  
18 percent cited "incorporating technology into the classroom" as the most important  
19 issue they face; yet only 14 percent said that technology had improved instruction  
20 to date (Carlson 2000). In earlier times, we would simply wait for a generation of

1 professors to retire before an academic unit could evolve. But in today's fast-paced  
2 world, when the doubling time for technology evolution has collapsed to a few  
3 years or less, we must look for effective ways to reskill the faculty members whose  
4 careers are far from over.

5       Actually, almost *all* of a university's adults—faculty, administrators,  
6 whomever—need to be reskilled in appreciating how today's student is so  
7 effortlessly digital across all boundaries (which are rapidly fading). This issue  
8 seldom gets serious attention, even though the ubiquitous presence of computers  
9 and other electronic devices—hand-held digital assistants and portable telephones,  
10 for example—affects student life at least as much as it does academic programs. In  
11 fact, students often make little distinction between the two; they see technology as  
12 a fundamental aspect of their lives, seamlessly affecting all of its parts, and they  
13 take it as for-granted as the air they breathe. Woe to the university that doesn't  
14 grasp this.

15       Understanding the need is one thing; paying for it is another. Thus another  
16 major challenge to the university is financial. The bill for information technology  
17 is growing faster than those of other categories (Olsen 2001b). For a very large  
18 campus, it can amount to hundreds of millions of dollars per year.<sup>11</sup>

19       Historically, universities have seen technology as a capital expenditure to  
20 serve only a select few, and more or less as an experimental tool. It is often paid

1 for with year-end savings and other “budget dust” (Olsen 2001a). Though times  
2 have changed, most universities still do not have a modern and sustainable  
3 financial model for investing in information technology; they are accustomed to  
4 planning for long-term faculty appointments and even longer-term physical  
5 facilities. Trying to satisfy constituents’ needs for technology infrastructure  
6 requires very rapid turnover in large-scale investments, and thus an agility not  
7 usually found in a budgeting culture.

8

### 9 **Impact on the Higher-Education Enterprise**

10 Coupled with new societal needs—ubiquitous adult education, for example—and  
11 economic realities such as erosion of public support (Hebel 2001, Healy 1999,  
12 Hebel, Schmidt and Selingo 2001), information technology is likely not only to  
13 transform individual institutions, whether research university or non-research  
14 university, but to drive a massive restructuring of the whole higher-education  
15 enterprise (Duderstadt 1999). Judging from the makeovers in other sectors of the  
16 economy, such as health care, transportation, communications, and energy, we  
17 should expect to see mergers, acquisitions, new competitors, and new products in  
18 higher education as well. More generally, we may well see the rise of a global  
19 “knowledge and learning” industry, in which the activities of traditional academic

1 institutions converge with those of other knowledge-intensive organizations such  
2 as telecommunications, entertainment, and information-services companies.

3         Such convergence is being driven by the increasing importance of human  
4 capital to our knowledge-based economy, which depends so heavily on  
5 brainpower, ideas, and entrepreneurship (National Research Council 2001c).

6 Although the employment and economic situation is weak as this report goes to  
7 press, it is clear to many business leaders that obtaining, training, and retaining  
8 skilled workers is still a critical long-term priority (ITAA). The panel agrees with  
9 the general assertion that the emergence of “knowledge work” and “knowledge  
10 workers” is crucial to the future development of the global economy and society  
11 (Drucker 1999, 2001). This notion of “knowledge work” encompasses more than  
12 activity directly related to information technology itself, and implies a rise—in  
13 nearly all sectors of today’s workforce—of professionals who depend on and  
14 manipulate information almost exclusively.

15         A key factor at present in pushing higher education toward restructuring is  
16 the emergence of aggressive for-profit education providers intent on satisfying this  
17 demand (Goldstein). Most of these new entrants, such as the University of  
18 Phoenix<sup>12</sup> and Jones International University,<sup>13</sup> are now focusing on the adult-  
19 education market as well as corporate training (Hanna). But they also have more  
20 expansive goals in mind.



1           Having invested heavily in sophisticated instructional content, pedagogy,  
2 and assessment tools, they are well positioned to offer broader educational  
3 programs, both at the undergraduate level and in professional areas such as  
4 engineering and law. Thus the initial focus of new for-profit entrants on basic adult  
5 education is misleading; in five years or less, their capacity to compete with  
6 traditional colleges and universities could be formidable indeed.

7           To be sure, some forecasts of demand for distance learning in areas such as  
8 business education have proven overly optimistic, at least for the near term  
9 (Mangan; Shea). But clearly the university will lose its monopoly on students,  
10 faculty, and resources, and in the absence of bold commercial alliances it is likely  
11 to lose market share to for-profit competitors in its traditional areas of strength.

12           The research university will face particular challenges in this regard.  
13 Although rarely acknowledged, most research universities rely on cross-subsidies  
14 from low-cost, high-profit instruction in general education (e.g., large lecture  
15 courses) and low-cost professional training (such as in business administration and  
16 law) to support graduate training and research in the science and engineering fields  
17 (Newman 2000, Newman and Couturier 2001). These high-profit programs are, not  
18 coincidentally, very attractive targets for technology-based, for-profit competitors.  
19 Their success in this higher-education marketplace could therefore undermine the  
20 current business model of the research university and imperil its core activities.

1 This could be a politically explosive issue for some of the state universities as they  
2 try to maintain and increase public support from state legislatures.

3 Further, as a knowledge-driven economy becomes ever more dependent on  
4 new ideas and innovation, there will be growing pressures to commercialize the  
5 university's intellectual assets—its faculty and students, its capacity for basic and  
6 applied research, and the knowledge generated through its scholarship and  
7 instruction—which become ever more valuable (Olcott and Schmidt). Public  
8 policy, through federal actions such as the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980, has encouraged  
9 the transfer of knowledge from campus to marketplace. But because knowledge  
10 can be transferred not only through formal mechanisms such as patents and  
11 licensing but also through the migration of faculty and students, there is a risk that  
12 the rich intellectual assets of the university will be depleted as support for graduate  
13 education and research erodes.

14 Even with faculty and students remaining in academia, research universities  
15 face particular conflicts in the commercialization arena. While transforming  
16 knowledge into public benefit has long been a major component of their mission,  
17 expectations for university contributions to regional and national economic  
18 development are growing. Universities are forming an array of ambitious  
19 partnerships with industry, and are doing more to support faculty entrepreneurship  
20 (GUIRR 2000 and 2001).

1           Yet some decry the growth of commercial forces and incentives on campus  
2 (Press and Washburn) as a threat to the basic values of the university. Moreover,  
3 society's experience so far with market-driven, media-based enterprises has not  
4 been altogether positive. The experience of the broadcasting and publishing  
5 industries suggests that a narrow focus on short-term financial results can lead to  
6 mediocrity.

7           One can imagine a scenario, for example, in which the campus does not  
8 disappear but, because of the escalating costs of residential education, becomes  
9 priced beyond the range of all but the most affluent. Much of the population would  
10 then be limited to lower-cost education via nonresidential learning centers or  
11 computer-mediated distance learning. While the commercial model of the newer  
12 for-profit institutions may be a very effective way to meet the workplace-skill  
13 needs of many adults, it is not—or at least, is not yet—a paradigm suitable to many  
14 of the other purposes of the university.

15           Thus even though we must be mindful of market forces and willing to  
16 respond to them as creatively and substantially as possible, the panel believes that  
17 they should not be allowed to dominate and reshape the higher-education  
18 enterprise all by themselves. Otherwise, we could well find ourselves facing a  
19 Brave New World in which some of the most important values and traditions of the  
20 university have fallen by the wayside.

1           As we assess these emerging market-driven learning institutions, we must  
2 bear in mind the importance of preserving the ability of the university to serve a  
3 broader public purpose. While universities teach skills and convey knowledge,  
4 they also preserve our cultural heritage and convey it from one generation to the  
5 next, perform the research necessary to generate new knowledge, serve as  
6 constructive social critics, and provide society with a broad array of knowledge-  
7 based services such as technology transfer and health care.

8           So what should a university of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—one that serves the needs of  
9 a knowledge-driven society—be like? In particular, what will be the research  
10 university's role in the changing higher-educational infrastructure? It would be  
11 impractical and foolhardy to suggest precise models. The great and ever-increasing  
12 diversity of America's citizenry and workforce makes it clear that there will be  
13 many forms of education and many types of institutions serving our country. But  
14 there are a number of themes that almost certainly will factor into the higher-  
15 education enterprise.

16           The panel believes that just as other social institutions have done,  
17 universities must become more focused on those they serve. They must transform  
18 themselves from faculty-centered to learner-centered entities, becoming more  
19 responsive to what students need to learn—whenever, wherever, and however they  
20 wish to learn it—rather than simply what faculties wish to teach. This will become

1 a bigger challenge than ever before as information technology greatly increases the  
2 size and enhances the diversity of universities' student bodies. Systems such as the  
3 Internet, for example, are inherently "democratizing" forces, extending educational  
4 opportunities to those currently underserved by traditional colleges and  
5 universities.

6 As a result, the paradigm of selective enrollment and extravagant  
7 expenditure is becoming less viable. Universities cannot long sustain a "culture of  
8 excellence" in which they spend more and more on fewer and fewer students and  
9 faculty. Elite education is not well aligned with the needs of a knowledge-driven  
10 society. Rather, universal education is becoming the priority.

11 The panel believes that society will require universities to become far more  
12 affordable, providing high-quality educational opportunities within the financial  
13 resources of all citizens throughout their lives. Whether this occurs through greater  
14 public subsidy or dramatic restructuring of the costs of higher education, it seems  
15 increasingly clear that the high-cost, low-productivity paradigm that characterizes  
16 much of higher education in America today will no longer be tolerated. Research  
17 universities will undoubtedly play a role in meeting the demand for cost-effective  
18 educational opportunities. This may involve increased cooperation with such  
19 components of the higher-education system as state universities and community  
20 colleges, which have long been accomplished providers of affordable education.

1           In an age of knowledge, lifelong learning is especially critical. The concept  
2 of student and alumnus will merge. Our highly partitioned schooling system may  
3 well blend increasingly into a seamless web, in which primary and secondary  
4 education; undergraduate, graduate, and professional education; on-the-job training  
5 and continuing education; and lifelong enrichment become a continuum. In this  
6 vision of the future, people will be continually surrounded by and absorbed in  
7 learning experiences.

8           Already we see new forms of pedagogy that utilize emerging information  
9 technology: asynchronous learning to break the constraints of time and space,  
10 thereby making learning opportunities more compatible with lifestyles and career  
11 needs; as well as interactive and collaborative learning (Gomory).

12           Information technologies are now providing not only the means to create  
13 growth-inducing environments throughout the lives of learners; the technologies  
14 themselves will be able to learn and grow throughout their own service lives.  
15 Increasingly powered by artificial intelligence and genetic algorithms, such  
16 systems will be capable of evolving to serve humanity's changing educational  
17 needs.

18           In all, information technology is rapidly becoming a liberating force in our society,  
19 not only freeing us from the mental drudgery of routine tasks but also creating new types  
20 of learning communities and, more generally, connecting us with one another in ways we

- 1 never dreamed possible. Higher education must define its relationship with these
- 2 emerging trends of the digital age in order to adapt, grow, and continue to excel.

2

<sup>5</sup> Newman 2000 provides an overview of the challenges that are facing the universities and forcing change, including advances in information technology.

<sup>6</sup> The discussion at the January 22-23, 2001 Workshop on the Impacts of Information Technology on the Future of the Research University ([www.researchchannel.com](http://www.researchchannel.com)) includes perspectives from several experts.

<sup>7</sup> Another cohort of learners pushing for change is employed adults.

<sup>8</sup> See [www.blackboard.com](http://www.blackboard.com) and [www.webCT.com](http://www.webCT.com).

<sup>9</sup> Unext.com is an education company that provides online business education and other e-learning products in collaboration with several universities (including Stanford and Columbia). Courses include targeted training programs and professional development, as well as business education. Unext operates an accredited online university, Cardean University, that offers an MBA degree in addition to several business-related courses.

<sup>10</sup> An example of such a portal is Stanford's Highwire Press, [highwire.stanford.edu/](http://highwire.stanford.edu/)

<sup>11</sup> Michael McRobbie, Indiana University's Chief Information Officer, notes that he operates with a \$100 million annual budget and is implementing a \$200 million five-year strategic plan for IT.

<sup>12</sup> The University of Phoenix ([www.phoenix.edu](http://www.phoenix.edu)) is a private, for-profit entity that provides high-quality education to working adult students. Through innovative avenues such as distance-education technologies, the University is accessible to working adults regardless of their geographical location. It has 107 campuses in the United States and Canada.

<sup>13</sup> Jones International University ([www.jonesinternational.edu](http://www.jonesinternational.edu)) is a completely online university that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as certificate programs. Started in 1995, it was accredited in 1999 by the Higher Learning Commission, a member of the North Central Association.

## Chapter 4: Choosing the Future: Findings and Options

Information technology clearly poses many challenges for higher education in general and research universities in particular. While the challenges are significant, so too are the opportunities to enhance the important social role of these institutions. The panel endeavored to reflect that spirit in this study.

As pointed out in Chapter Two, we can expect enormous technological changes over the next ten years, and with an ever-increasing *rate* of change. Yet Chapter Three observes that individual human beings cannot modify their behaviors with respect to technology as rapidly as the technology itself is changing. Social institutions such as the law and the university have an even greater inertia with respect to exploiting new technology.<sup>14</sup> The university's greatest challenge, therefore, will be to manage this great and growing discrepancy. In order to avoid squandering resources, exhausting faculty, and disappointing students, the higher education community, and the research university in particular, needs to build agile processes for experimenting with and assessing alternative courses of action.

### Significant Findings

The study's findings may be summarized as follows:



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- The extraordinary pace of information-technology evolution is likely not only to continue for the next several decades but could well accelerate. It will erode, and in some cases obliterate, higher education’s usual constraints of space and time. Institutional barriers will be called into question and possibly transformed.
- The impact of information technology on the research university will likely be profound, rapid, and discontinuous—just as it has been and will continue to be for our other social institutions and the economy. There are likely to be major technology surprises, comparable in significance to the personal computer in the late 1970s and the Internet browser in 1994, but at more frequent intervals. The future is becoming less predictable.
- Digital technology will not only transform the intellectual activities of the research university (teaching, research, outreach) but will also change how the university is organized, financed, and governed. The technology is likely to cause restructuring of the current higher-education enterprise into a global “knowledge and learning” industry.

- 1       • Procrastination and inaction are the most dangerous courses for the  
2       university during a time of rapid technological change. To be sure, there are  
3       certain time-honored values and traditions, such as academic freedom, a  
4       rational spirit of inquiry, and liberal learning, that must be maintained and  
5       protected. But just as in earlier times, the university will have to adapt itself  
6       if it is to serve a radically changing world.
- 7
- 8       • For at least the near term, meaning a decade or less, the research university  
9       will continue to exist in much its present form. But it must devote itself  
10      during this interval to anticipating the needed changes, developing  
11      appropriate strategies, and making adequate investments if it is to prosper  
12      thereafter.
- 13
- 14     • Over the longer term, the basic character and structure of the research  
15     university may be challenged by the technology-driven forces of aggregation  
16     (new alliances, for example, and the conversion of the academic marketplace  
17     into a global industry) and disaggregation (such as restructuring of the  
18     academic disciplines, detachment of faculty and students from particular  
19     universities, and decoupling of research and education).
- 20

- 1       • Although we are confident that information technology will continue its  
2       rapid growth for the foreseeable future and may ultimately have profound  
3       impacts on human behavior and social institutions such as the research  
4       university, it is far more difficult to predict these impacts with any precision.  
5       Nevertheless, higher education must develop mechanisms to at least *sense*  
6       the potential changes and to aid in the understanding of where the  
7       technology may drive it.
- 8
- 9       • It is therefore important that university strategies include the development of  
10      sufficient in-house expertise among faculty and staff to track technological  
11      trends and assess various courses of action; the opportunity for  
12      experimentation; and the ability to form alliances with other academic  
13      institutions as well as with for-profit and governmental organizations.

### 15   **Discovering Options: The Need for Continued Dialogue**

16   The panel believes that information technology is evolving so rapidly it would be  
17   inappropriate to conclude this study with a prescriptive set of conclusions and  
18   recommendations. Instead, it urges that the higher-education community create an  
19   ongoing process capable of monitoring technological changes and the resulting  
20   scholarly, educational, and social shifts; identifying crucial issues, challenges, and

1 opportunities for the research university and the broader higher-education enterprise;  
2 stimulating awareness on the campuses; and making recommendations for actions or  
3 further studies.<sup>15</sup> Such a process would address the need for expanded monitoring and  
4 dialogue not only on campus but at the national level. It would involve technology  
5 specialists as well as experts in higher education and state and federal policy makers.  
6 Of course, it would also involve faculty and students themselves.

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7 **Box 4-1 Examples of Key Questions and Issues that Might Be Addressed**  
8 **Through Continued National and Campus-Based Discussions**

9  
10 For Institutions

- 11
- 12 1. How will e-learning environments affect the need for traditional teacher-  
13 centered instruction? How will the residential campus experience be affected?  
14 What are the implications for graduate training in research universities, where  
15 graduate assistants carry a large share of the teaching load?  
16
  - 17 2. How will information-technology advances affect the ways in which  
18 universities tackle major research problems? What new partnerships among  
19 institutions and other constituents (e.g., federal agencies, state governments) are  
20 needed for efficient development of the necessary tools?  
21
  - 22 3. How can research universities become more effective in the planning,  
23 procurement, and management of IT infrastructure? What operational and  
24 management changes are needed? How can the needs of diverse campus  
25 constituencies be better anticipated and addressed? What roles should be played  
26 by faculty, students, and administrators?  
27
  - 28 4. What new policies—for example, on intellectual property, copyright,  
29 instructional-content ownership, and faculty contracts—do research universities  
30 need to reconsider in light of evolving IT?  
31

32 For the Higher-education Enterprise and its Public Stakeholders  
33

- 1 1. How should research universities address the rapidly evolving commercial  
2 marketplace for educational services and content—including, in particular, the  
3 for-profit and dot.com providers? How should universities grapple with the  
4 forces of aggregation—and disaggregation—associated with technology-driven  
5 restructuring of the higher-education enterprise? What new alliances are  
6 necessary? Will universities be forced to merge into larger units, as the  
7 corporate world has done (though not always with great success)? Will they  
8 find it necessary to outsource or spin off existing activities?  
9
  - 10 2. What are the state and national interests in keeping the universities in step with  
11 evolving information technology? What changes in state and federal policies,  
12 programs, and investments are necessary in order for higher education to  
13 flourish in the digital age?  
14
- 

15  
16 For example, at the grass-roots level, institutions could organize structured  
17 campus-based dialogues to bring together faculty, students, and administrators to  
18 discuss challenges and opportunities presented by digital technology and to formulate  
19 possible responses. Periodic national conferences and workshops could be utilized to  
20 propose strategies. Standing subgroups might be formed to develop follow-up  
21 strategies and actions (including possible alliances).

22 Additional dialogues might be organized among institutional leaders, such as  
23 deans, university trustees, and top faculty. Links could be forged with state and  
24 national policy makers and industry leaders. The panel believes that the policy  
25 dimension is crucial, although public discussions and thinking have not advanced  
26 to the point where specific policy issues could be addressed in this report.<sup>16</sup>

1           Such sustained activity would be aimed at producing specific initiatives and  
2 demonstration projects to help research universities develop appropriate strategies for  
3 the digital age. Examples include the use of very-high-bandwidth networks (e.g.,  
4 Internet2) to support new activities such as multicasting and telepresence, novel  
5 approaches to using technology to enhance teaching and learning, and innovative  
6 approaches to sustainable financing of information-technology infrastructure.<sup>14</sup>

7

### 8 **Breathtaking implications**

9           There is little doubt that the status quo in higher education cannot, and should not,  
10 be maintained as this “disruptive” digital technology finds its way into every  
11 corner of our society, and in ever more significant ways. Yet while the challenges  
12 to universities will be great, so too will be the opportunities to enhance the  
13 important social role of these institutions.

14           Academics should approach issues and decisions on information technology  
15 in that spirit—not as threats but as opportunities. Creative, visionary leaders can  
16 respond by guiding their institutions in new directions that reinforce and enhance  
17 their most critical roles and values. They can use information technology to help  
18 their students learn more successfully, their faculty members become better

18

<sup>14</sup> One possible model for this continued activity is the project on Stresses on Research and Education at Colleges and Universities that was undertaken during the 1990s by the National Science Board and the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (NSB-GUIRR 1994, 1998; Texas A&M University 1994)

1 scholars and teachers, and their institutions serve society inclusively and to ever  
2 greater effect.

3         We are on the threshold of a revolution that is making the world's  
4 accumulated information and knowledge accessible to individuals everywhere. It  
5 has breathtaking implications for us all, but the challenge is particularly great for  
6 the academic community. Our mission—our responsibility—is to develop a  
7 strategic framework that enables us to understand this extraordinary technology  
8 and shape its impact with skill and imagination.

9

9

<sup>14</sup> But the half-life of students' basic technology is diminishing as technological change accelerates. For twenty years or more the entering college freshman bought and used a typewriter. In the late 1980s and early 1990s it was a personal computer. In the mid-1990s e-mail usage grew. The late 1990s saw the advent of the World Wide Web and Napster. Currently, instant messaging is the "hot" technology.

<sup>15</sup> The National Academies have been awarded funding to launch such an effort through the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable.

<sup>16</sup> Other groups are examining policy issues related to the future of research universities. For example, in 2000 the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities proposed a "Millenium Partnership Initiative"—a renewed "partnership of federal and state government, colleges and universities, and the private sector to build the technology infrastructure needed to educate and train the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

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## **Appendix A: Project Chronology**

What follows is a chronology of meetings and activities of the NRC project on the Impact of Information Technology on the Future of the Research University (ITFRU). Additional background can be found on the project website ([www4.nas.edu/pd/guirr.nsf/web/impact\\_of\\_information\\_technology\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_the\\_research\\_university](http://www4.nas.edu/pd/guirr.nsf/web/impact_of_information_technology_for_the_future_of_the_research_university)).

### **February 14, 2000**

First meeting of Steering Committee (“panel”), Washington, D.C.

### **May 5, 2000**

Meeting of Steering Committee Technology Subgroup on “Cutting Edge IT Issues,” Sloan Foundation, New York, N.Y.

### **June 9, 2000**

Steering Committee members testified at the House Subcommittee on Basic Research hearing, “The Internet, Distance Learning, and the Future of the Research University.” More information on the hearing, including witness statements, can be found at [www.house.gov/science/hearing\\_106.htm](http://www.house.gov/science/hearing_106.htm)

### **July 20, 2000**

Conference call of the Steering Committee University Subgroup focusing on impacts of information technology on instruction and education

### **August 17, 2000**

Conference call of the Steering Committee University Subgroup

### **August 24-25, 2000**

Meeting of Steering Committee, “A View of Technology Futures,” Bell Labs (Murray Hill, N.J.) and IBM Watson Labs (Yorktown Heights, N.Y.)

### **December 4, 2000**

Conference call of the Steering Committee concerning workshop planning

### **January 16, 2001**

Conference call of the Steering Committee to finalize workshop planning



1 **January 22-23, 2001**

2 Workshop on the Impact of Information Technology on the Future of the Research University,  
3 Washington, D.C.

4  
5 **March 6, 2001**

6 Broadcasts of the first day's workshop sessions begin on the Research Channel. Sessions are  
7 available for viewing at [www.researchchannel.com/programs/na/ITFRU.html](http://www.researchchannel.com/programs/na/ITFRU.html)

8  
9 **April 24, 2001**

10 Conference call of the Steering Committee concerning the January workshop, June GUIRR  
11 meeting, and Phase II funding

12  
13 **June 19-20, 2001**

14 Members of the Steering Committee facilitate discussion on the project at the Government-  
15 University-Industry Research Roundtable Council meeting

16  
17 **August 29, 2001**

18 Conference call of the Steering Committee regarding the June GUIRR meeting, continuing  
19 efforts for Phase II funding, and concluding Phase I activities

20  
21 **Fall-Winter, 2001-2002**

22 Preparation of final project report

23

1 **Appendix B: January 22-23, 2001 Workshop Agenda**

2  
3 **Impact of Information Technology on the**  
4 **Future of the Research University**

5  
6 **Chaired by James J. Duderstadt**  
7 **President Emeritus: University of Michigan**  
8

9 January 22-23, 2001  
10 Washington, DC  
11

12 **January 22, 2001 Lecture Room, The National Academy of Sciences Building**

- 13
- 14 7:45 AM Continental Breakfast
- 15
- 16 8:15 Welcome, Introductions, Background and Objectives (Jim Duderstadt)
- 17
- 18 8:30 William A. Wulf, President, National Academy of Engineering
- 19 Plenary Address: The Information Technology Train—A Wakeup Call to the Research University
- 20
- 21 8:45 Technology Futures Moderator: Dan Atkins
- 22 Executive Director, Alliance for Community
- 23 Technology
- 24 Discussants: Fred Brooks
- 25 Chair, Computer Science Department,
- 26 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 27 Stu Feldman
- 28 President, IBM Worldwide Computing
- 29
- 30 10:30 Break
- 31
- 32 10:45 The Impact of IT on the Activities of the University (Teaching, Research, Service)
- 33 Moderator: Joe Wyatt
- 34 Chancellor Emeritus, Vanderbilt University
- 35 Discussants: Tim Killeen
- 36 Director, National Center for Atmospheric Research
- 37 Richard Larson
- 38 Professor of Electrical Engineering, MIT
- 39 Gary Miller
- 40 Associate Vice President, Distance Education,
- 41 Pennsylvania State University
- 42 Don Norman
- 43 Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
- 44
- 45 12:30 PM Lunch
- 46
- 47 1:30 The Impact of IT on Organization and Structure
- 48 Moderator: Nils Hasselmo
- 49 President, American Association of Universities

1 Discussants: Jon Cole  
2 Provost, Columbia University  
3 Marye Anne Fox  
4 Chancellor, North Carolina State University  
5 Mike McRobbie  
6 Vice President for Information Technology/Chief  
7 Information Officer, Indiana University  
8 Barbara O’Keefe  
9 Dean, School of Speech, Northwestern University  
10  
11 3:15 Break  
12  
13 3:45 The Impact of IT on the Broader Environment of the Research University (e.g., post-secondary  
14 education marketplace, research enterprise)  
15 Moderator: Doug Van Houweling  
16 President, University Corporation for Advanced Internet  
17 Development/Internet2  
18 Discussants: Bill Massy  
19 President, Jackson Hole Higher Education Group  
20 Frank Newman  
21 Director, The Futures Project  
22 Diana Oblinger  
23 Professor of the Practice, Kenan-Flagler Business  
24 School, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
25 Bob Zemsky  
26 Trustee, Franklin and Mills College  
27  
28 5:30 First Day Wrap-up (Jim Duderstadt)  
29  
30 5:45 Reception  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35 **January 23, 2001 Members Room, The National Academy of Sciences Building**  
36  
37 7:45 AM Continental Breakfast  
38  
39 8:15 Informal Remarks and Discussion (Bill Wulf)  
40 Potential Impacts of IT on the Research University and Possible Actions  
41  
42 8:45 Breakout groups:  
43 “How should the research university respond to the challenges, threats, and opportunities  
44 associated with IT?”  
45  
46 What should institutions do themselves? Moderator: Bob Weisbuch, Members Room  
47 What should the federal government do? Moderator: Dan Atkins, Board Room  
48 What should industry do? Moderator: Lee Sproull, Room 280  
49  
50 10:45 Break  
51

- 1 11:15 Breakout Group Reports and Discussion
- 2
- 3 12:00 PM Lunch
- 4
- 5 1:00 How best can The National Academies' ITFRU Project stimulate and support such actions? For
- 6 example, should we:
  - 7 • Establish an ongoing dialogue that will engage campuses?
  - 8 • Organize further workshops or focus groups on campus?
  - 9 • Develop a national Web portal on the subject?
- 10
- 11 3:30 Meeting Wrap-up (Jim Duderstadt)
- 12
- 13 4:00 PM Adjourn
- 14
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## Appendix C: Panel Member Bio Sketches

**James J. Duderstadt** is President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. He also is the Director of the Millennium Project, a research center concerned with the future of higher education. Dr. Duderstadt obtained his B.S. in electrical engineering from Yale and his Ph.D. in engineering science and physics from the California Institute of Technology. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1968, and served as Dean of the College of Engineering and then Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs before becoming President of the university in 1988. Dr. Duderstadt's teaching and research interests span a range of subjects in science, mathematics, and engineering, including science policy and higher education. Dr. Duderstadt has received several national awards and has been elected to many honorific societies. He has served on and/or chaired numerous boards, including the National Science Board, the Executive Council of the National Academy of Engineering, the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy of the National Academy of Sciences, the Big Ten Athletic Conference, Unisys, and CMS Energy. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

**Daniel E. Atkins** earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Bucknell University in 1965, and an MSEE and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, in 1967 and 1970, respectively. Dr. Atkins joined the University of Michigan's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) as an assistant professor in 1972. From January 1989 through July 1990, he served as interim Dean of the College of Engineering. In 1990 Dr. Atkins created an R&D consortium to realize a prototype of a "collaboratory," a vision around which a large and interdisciplinary group of faculty and administrators have coalesced their interests. Dr. Atkins became founding Dean of the new School of Information in July 1992 and held that position until September 1998. With major support of the University and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Dr. Atkins led the School of Information's creation of a graduate research and educational program to produce leaders and change agents in the design, use, and evaluation of new knowledge-work environments. Dr. Atkins is currently the Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Technology, a strategic partnership with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

**John Seely Brown** is Chief Scientist of the Xerox Corporation. At Xerox, he has been deeply involved in expanding the role of corporate research to include organizational learning, ethnographies of the workplace, complex adaptive systems, and techniques for unfreezing the corporate mind. His research interests include digital culture, ubiquitous computing, user-centering design, and organizational and individual learning. Dr. Brown is a cofounder of the Institute for Research on Learning, a member of the National Academy of Education, and a Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence. He serves on numerous advisory boards and boards of directors. He has also published over 95 papers in scientific journals and the books *Seeing Differently: Insights on Innovation* and *The Social Life of Information* (with Paul Duguid) (Harvard Business School Press). He was awarded the 1998 Industrial Research Institute Medal for outstanding accomplishments in technological innovation and the 1999 Holland Award in recognition of the best paper in *Research Technology Management* in 1998. Dr. Brown has a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics from Brown University, and an M.S. in

1 Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Computer and Communication Sciences from the University of  
2 Michigan.

3  
4 **Marye Anne Fox** is Chancellor of North Carolina State University. Prior to that, she served in  
5 numerous capacities at the University of Texas, including Vice President for Research and  
6 Director for the Center for Fast Kinetics Research. Dr. Fox has served in numerous visiting  
7 appointments and has had extensive consulting experience throughout her career. She has also  
8 been a board member of numerous organizations, including the National Science Board, was the  
9 chair for the Federal Science and Technology guidance group (1998/1999), and is currently a  
10 member of COSEPUP and Co-chair of the GUIRR Council. Fox is known for her contributions  
11 to organic photochemistry and photoelectrochemistry. Her research interests include physical  
12 organic chemistry, organic photochemistry, organic electrochemistry, chemical reactivity in non-  
13 homogeneous systems, heterogeneous photocatalysis, and electron transfer in anisotropic  
14 macromolecular arrays. Dr. Fox earned her Ph.D. from Dartmouth in 1974. She is a member of  
15 the National Academy of Sciences.

16  
17 **Ralph E. Gomory** has been President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation since 1989. He was  
18 Higgins Lecturer and Assistant Professor at Princeton University from 1957-1959. Dr. Gomory  
19 joined the Research Division of IBM in 1959, became an IBM Fellow in 1964, and Director of  
20 the Mathematical Sciences Department in 1965. He was made IBM Director of Research in  
21 1970, and held that position until 1986, becoming IBM Vice President in 1973 and Senior Vice  
22 President in 1985. In 1986, Dr. Gomory became IBM Senior Vice President for Science and  
23 Technology. Dr. Gomory served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and  
24 Technology from 1990 to March 1993, and he has served in numerous capacities for many other  
25 academic, industrial, and governmental organizations. He is a member of both the National  
26 Academies of Sciences and of Engineering. Dr. Gomory received his B.A. from Williams  
27 College in 1950, studied at Cambridge University, and received his Ph.D. in mathematics from  
28 Princeton University in 1954. He has also been awarded a number of honorary degrees and  
29 prizes. Dr. Gomory served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1957.

30  
31 **Nils Hasselmo** is currently the President of the Association of American Universities. Prior to  
32 that he held numerous positions at the University of Minnesota, including President (1989-1997),  
33 Vice President for Administration and Planning (1980-1983), and Chairman of the Department  
34 of Scandinavian Languages and Literature and Director of the Center for Northwest European  
35 Language and Area Studies (1970-1973). Dr. Hasselmo has also served as Senior Vice President  
36 for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Arizona (1983-1988) and held visiting  
37 appointments at the University of Wisconsin (1964-1965), Harvard University (1967), and Umea  
38 University in Sweden (1977). Dr. Hasselmo has received numerous fellowships and awards and  
39 is a member of a number of professional and educational associations, including the Board of the  
40 National Merit Scholarship Corporation, the Council of Big Ten, the National Association of  
41 State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the Universities Research Association, and the  
42 Kellogg Commission on the Future of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Dr. Hasselmo  
43 received his baccalaureate from Augustana College and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Harvard  
44 University.

1 **Paul M. Horn** is currently Senior Vice President, Research, of the IBM Corporation, a position  
2 he has held since 1996. In his 20 years with IBM, Dr. Horn has been a champion for translating  
3 technology research into marketplace opportunities—first, as a solid state physicist, followed by  
4 several key management positions in science, semiconductors, and storage. Prior to his current  
5 position, Dr. Horn was Vice President and Lab Director of the Research Division’s Almaden  
6 Research Center in San Jose, California. Dr. Horn graduated from Clarkson College of  
7 Technology and received his doctoral degree from the University of Rochester in 1973. Prior to  
8 joining IBM in 1979, Dr. Horn was a professor in the Physics Department and the James Franck  
9 Institute at the University of Chicago. Dr. Horn is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, an  
10 NSF Graduate Fellow, and was an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow from 1974-1978. He is a  
11 former Associate Editor of Physical Review Letters and has published over 85 scientific and  
12 technical papers. In 1988 he received the Bertram Eugene Warren award from the American  
13 Crystallographic Association. Dr. Horn is a member of numerous professional committees,  
14 including the Council on Competitiveness, the Government-University-Industry Research  
15 Roundtable (GUIRR), the Clarkson University Board of Trustees, the UC Berkeley Industrial  
16 Advisory Board, and the Board of the New York Hall of Science.

17  
18 **Shirley Ann Jackson** has served as the 18th President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute since  
19 July 1, 1999. Prior to that she was Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
20 During her tenure with the Commission she enhanced the regulatory effectiveness of the 3,000-  
21 employee, \$472-million agency. Prior to joining the NRC, she was professor of physics at  
22 Rutgers University, and held research positions at Bell Laboratories, the Fermi National  
23 Accelerator Center, the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and the Aspen Center for Physics.  
24 She holds a B.S. in physics and a Ph.D. in theoretical elementary particle physics from the  
25 Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a member of the National Academy of  
26 Engineering.

27  
28 **Frank H.T. Rhodes** is professor of geological sciences and President Emeritus at Cornell  
29 University. Before assuming the presidency at Cornell in 1977—a position he then held for 18  
30 years—Dr. Rhodes was Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan for  
31 three years. He joined the Michigan faculty as professor of geology in 1968 and, in 1971, was  
32 named Dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. He was professor and head of the  
33 geology department and Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Wales, and has  
34 served on the faculty at the University of Illinois and the University of Durham. Dr. Rhodes  
35 received a bachelor of science degree with first-class honors, as well as a doctor of philosophy  
36 degree, a doctor of science degree, and a doctor of laws degree from the University of  
37 Birmingham, England. He went to the University of Illinois in 1950 as a postdoctoral fellow and  
38 Fulbright scholar. Dr. Rhodes was appointed by President Reagan as a member of the National  
39 Science Board, of which he is a former chair, and by President Bush as a member of the  
40 President’s Educational Policy Advisory Committee. He has served as Chair of the American  
41 Council on Education, the American Association of Universities, and the Carnegie Foundation  
42 for the Advancement of Teaching. He has also served as a trustee of the Andrew W. Mellon  
43 Foundation. Dr. Rhodes has published widely in the fields of geology, paleontology, evolution,  
44 the history of science, and education. Dr. Rhodes is a principal of the Washington Advisory  
45 Group, a member of the board of directors of the General Electric Company, and a member of

1 the Board of Overseers of Koç University, Turkey. He is currently president of the American  
2 Philosophical Society.

3  
4 **Marshall S. Smith** is professor of education at Stanford University. He has been involved in  
5 helping to shape the nation's educational policies, especially as they relate to equal opportunity  
6 and high standards. He served as Undersecretary and Acting Deputy Secretary of the U.S.  
7 Department of Education from 1993 to 2000. In these capacities, he was the Chief Operating  
8 Officer of the Department and the Chief Policy Advisor to the Secretary. Originally trained in  
9 statistical techniques for research, Dr. Smith has extensive knowledge of policy issues through  
10 his years of previous governmental and academic experience. This experience has included  
11 research on such topics as computer analysis of social-science data, early-childhood education,  
12 critical thinking, and social inequality; teaching positions at Harvard, Wisconsin, and Stanford;  
13 and six years as Dean of the School of Education at Stanford. Dr. Smith's current research  
14 interests include national and state educational policy, educational quality, challenging  
15 educational standards, imaginative use of technology for learning, and policy and practices in  
16 education in emerging nations. He has been a member of several organizations, including the  
17 National Academy of Education and the National Council on Education Standards and Testing,  
18 and he served as the chair of several committees, including the National Academy of Sciences'  
19 Board of International Comparative Studies in Education and the U.S. Government  
20 Subcommittee on Educational Standards. Dr. Smith obtained his baccalaureate, M.A., and Ed.D.  
21 in Measurement and Statistics (1970) from Harvard.

22  
23 **Lee Sproull** holds the Leonard N. Stern School Professorship of Business at the Stern School,  
24 New York University. She is currently Director of the Stern School Initiative in Digital  
25 Economy, a comprehensive project combining educational programs, research, and industry  
26 partnerships. Dr. Sproull is an internationally recognized sociologist whose research centers on  
27 the implications of computer-based communication technologies for managers, organizations,  
28 communities, and society. She has conducted research on technology-induced changes in  
29 interpersonal interaction, group dynamics and decision making, and organizational or community  
30 structure. Dr. Sproull has been a visiting scholar at Xerox PARC, Digital Cambridge Research  
31 Lab, and Lotus Development Corporation, and has published the results of her research in eight  
32 books and more than 60 articles. She has held previous appointments as professor of  
33 management at Boston University and professor of social and decision sciences at Carnegie  
34 Mellon University. She holds a B.A. from Wellesley College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from  
35 Stanford University. Dr. Sproull is a member of the Computer Science and Telecommunications  
36 Board of the National Research Council and the advisory board of MentorNet, and is a former  
37 Trustee of the Computer Museum.

38  
39 **Doug Van Houweling** has been President and CEO of the University Corporation for Advanced  
40 Internet Development (UCAID) since October 1997. UCAID is a consortium of U.S. research  
41 universities, in collaboration with private- and public-sector partners, currently engaged in the  
42 Internet2 project to advance networking technology and applications for the research and  
43 education community. He is on leave from the University of Michigan. Dr. Van Houweling has  
44 been active in interuniversity initiatives, serving on the board of EDUCOM—a consortium of  
45 450 universities that developed computer networks and systems for sharing information and  
46 resources—and as a founder of EDUCOM's Networking and Telecommunications Task Force.



1 He has also served as a board member of the Interuniversity Consortium for Educational  
2 Computing. Prior to going to Michigan, Dr. Van Houweling was Vice Provost for Computing  
3 and Planning at Carnegie Mellon and assistant professor of government at Cornell. He received  
4 his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. in government from Indiana  
5 University.

6  
7 **Wm. A. Wulf** is currently on leave from the University of Virginia to serve as President of the  
8 National Academy of Engineering. During 1988-1990, Dr. Wulf was Assistant Director of the  
9 National Science Foundation, where he headed the Directorate for Computer and Information  
10 Science and Engineering . Prior to joining the University of Virginia, Dr. Wulf founded Tartan  
11 Laboratories and was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. While at Carnegie Mellon and  
12 Tartan, Dr. Wulf helped found the Pittsburgh High Technology Council and served as its Vice  
13 President and Director. His breadth and depth of experience has given him a unique opportunity  
14 to develop a perspective on the relationships between universities, industry, and government. Dr.  
15 Wulf is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the American Academy  
16 of Arts and Sciences, and a Fellow of three professional societies (ACM, IEEE, AAAS). He is  
17 also the author of over 80 papers and technical reports, and three books.

18  
19 **Joe B. Wyatt** is Chancellor Emeritus of Vanderbilt University. Much of his earlier career  
20 focused on computer science and systems, in both industry and academia. In addition to holding  
21 faculty positions, he was also associated in various capacities, including service as President and  
22 CEO, with EDUCOM. In 1976, he was appointed Vice President for Administration at Harvard  
23 and was named Chancellor of Vanderbilt in 1982, stepping down in 2000. He holds degrees in  
24 mathematics from Texas Christian University and the University of Texas. Mr. Wyatt has carried  
25 out research on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Office of  
26 Naval Research, and the Eli Lilly Foundation. He is co-author of the book *Financial Planning*  
27 *Models* and the author of numerous papers and articles in fields relating to technology,  
28 management, and education. Additionally, Mr. Wyatt serves on a number of corporate boards, as  
29 well as professional and service organizations, and was a founding director of the Massachusetts  
30 Technology Development Corporation. He is Chairman of the Universities Research Association  
31 and past Co-chair of GUIRR, as well as past Chairman of the Nashville Area Chamber of  
32 Commerce. Mr. Wyatt is also a member of the Association of American Universities, the  
33 Business Higher Education Forum, the Advisory Committee of the Public Agenda Foundation,  
34 and the Council on Competitiveness.

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