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Low Cost Software Applications

19 LOW-COST SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

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The "low-cost" attribute associated to multimedia projects under development, might be relative and arguable. What seems to be general and common is the fact that few projects, if any, are totally self contained or isolated. Accordingly, collaboration with others with common interests offer ways of maximising the effectiveness of investment, of research, production time and money.

The "Gold of Greece application" (Costis J. Dallas, Benaki Museum Greece) is a joint initiative between the Benaki Museum, Epsilon Software Sa, GMD, Multimedia Systems Institute of Crete, FORTH, Politecnico di Milano, Siemens AG, Syntax System Software Spa, Systems & Management Spa, to create tools and applications directly accessing data in relational and multimedia databases from a hypertext front end. The "Commonwealth Information Database" (Scott Ewings, Commonwealth Institute, UK) states as mission the promotion of knowledge and understanding for fifty countries, "The Portinari Project" (R.S.G. Lanzelotte, Project Portinari, Brazil) mentions contacts and sources in more than 20 countries in the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East as well as 6000 documents exchanged with major personalities from all over the world, of the time.

This theme was structured to yield concrete results. The planners had assigned three papers, each addressing a particular project. The key objectives pursued are: identifying and formulating challenges and defining various concrete steps and methodologies to meet the challenges:

- technical possibilities for presentation and exploration of material from any differing sources and points of view, for a variety of audience
- compatibility and cross platform between interactive multimedia projects, adaption of established emergent international standards
- matters concerning digital imaging
- stimulation of interest and market awareness.

To address the problem effectively, the present session - in which the speakers actually shape the further developments in the field - promotes collaboration among scholars, information managers and technical experts. As we believe that humanities needs to play key role in outlining new technologies, extending and liberating access to knowledge and all benefits of the electronic media.