PROPOSAL
FOR A
PILOT STUDY

INTERACTIVE
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY
AT
THE HILLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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ACTING HEAD OF HISTORY
8th September, 1998

USING THE INTERNET AND EMAIL TO CONDUCT A UNIT OF STUDY IN YEAR 10 AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AT THE HILLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL, TERM 4, 1998.

1. Proposal

To use a combination of a History Department Web Site, the Internet and the School's email to conduct a unit of study on Investigating Australia's Cultural Heritage. To demonstrate to students and staff that email and the Web can be used for educational purposes as well as administrative and social purposes.

2. Background

2.1 School-wide Integrated Information Technology Policy

The School has invested considerable monetary and personnel resources to develop an integrated IT Policy. This Policy is now in the progress of being implemented across the School. As a result of the implementation of this IT Policy the School has established staff and student access to the internet via computers in the Library and Computer Rooms using an external server. The School has also recently introduced email access via Novell and individual addresses to all staff in the school and proposes to introduce email access via Novell and individual addresses to all students of the School.

2.2 Present Australian History Program for Year 10

The History Department has introduced and used a program of study for Term 4 over the past few years involving an investigation into the development of Australia's Cultural Heritage culminating in an answer to the question "Is there a unique Australian Culture and Identity?". This course has met the requirements of the Mandatory Question No. 4 in the current Board of Studies History Syllabus.

Of necessity this program has been limited in its use of primary and secondary materials, such as paintings, artefacts, film and video, to the resources held by various departments of the school. Material used has been sourced from the History, Geography, English, Art and Science Departments and the Library.

Australian History is now offered as an elective in both Year Nine, where most students study the course, and Year 10, where the remainder study the subject. The Year 10 cohort is a considerably smaller cohort of students and it is this group which would be involved in the proposed pilot program. There are 13 students in the cohort.

3. Outline

It will be necessary to establish a History Department Web Site and allocate student Email addresses to the cohort involved in the Pilot program.

3.1 Required Resource Development

3.1.1 History Department Web Site

The History Department will develop an integrated, Department-wide Web Site for access by staff and students. This Site will contain general information about the Department, staff and contact details with hypertext links to The Hills Grammar School Site and an Australian History Page which will be the focus for this Pilot Program. In addition it will act as the parent directory for student orientated projects such as units of study, extra-curricular activities and resource data linked to appropriate Universal Resource Locators (URLs).

3.1.2 Email Addresses for Students

The primary mode of communication between staff and students for this Pilot Program will be email and will necessitate the creation and allocation of email addresses for the 13 students involved. It is understood that Mr. S. Liseo, the Network Manager, will be able to activate these addresses on acceptance of this submission.

4. Required Resource Allocation

4.1 Initial Resource Allocation

The construction of the History Department Web Site and the Australian History Page which will be completed at home in my own time at no cost to the School. A copy of the Web Site and the Australian History Page is attached to this proposal.

4.2 Ongoing Resource Allocation

It will be essential to allocate time for the maintenance of this Web Site and it is anticipated that for the period of the Pilot Program this will be carried out voluntarily by me through the Network Manager. This is necessary to ensure that all hypertext links remain active and viable and that any new links can be added without affecting the integrity of the Page.

4.3 Computer Related Resource Allocation

It is anticipated that an initial allocation of five (5) megabytes of server space would be allocated to the establishment of this Web Site under the name of The History Department of The Hills Grammar School.   We will not be

seeking a new Domain name as the cost involved in this is not justifiable for the net gain.

The Directory structure allocation would be as follows:

Domain Name: http://www.hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au

History Department Web Site
Directory: http://www.hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/history

Australian History Web Page
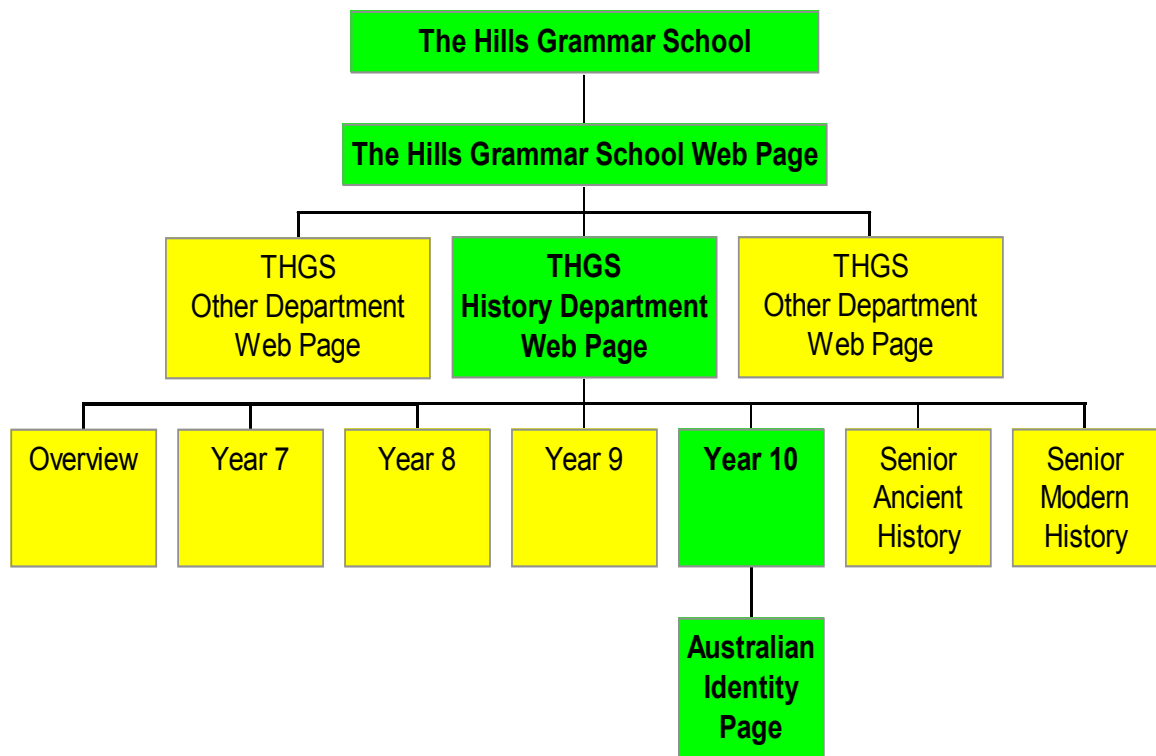Directory: http://www.hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au/history/ozhist

The Network Manager will download the Web Site from data supplied by me via floppy disc and will, in the first instance, assist in its maintenance. This will ensure that the integrity of the School's server and data is maintained. Mr. Liseo anticipates that eventually space on the server will be put aside for the use of the History Department and its contents will then be maintained by the Department.

4.3.1 Organisation Chart of The Hills Grammar School Web Site, the History Department Site and the Australian History

Site.

The Hills Grammar School

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                    │   The Hills Grammar School      │
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                    ┌─────────────────────────────────┐
                    │  The Hills Grammar School Web Page │
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THGS Other Department Web Page	THGS History Department Web Page	THGS Other Department Web Page

Overview	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Senior Ancient History	Senior Modern History

Australian Identity Page

4.4 Accessibility of Computers in the Library for this Pilot Study

As there will be 13 students taking part in this Pilot Study it will be critical that at least 10 of the 12 computers in the Library (if not more) are available to the students during Year 10 Australian History class time. Several of the students are near novices with the use of the Internet and will be paired with more experienced students to ensure they can complete the program of study.

5. Maintaining Site Integrity

It is critical that the Web Page be secure from alteration by anyone except the Administrator of the Page.   It is proposed that this Web Page be established in a Unix environment on a dedicated Web Server, such as that which the School uses, to prevent illegal tampering with the Page contents, in order to ensure fairness and equal access to all students. The Network Manager will ensure, through systems already in place, that this integrity is maintained.

6. Student Commitment

6.1 Internet Access Contract

All students taking part in this Pilot Study have read, accepted and signed the School's Internet Agreement Contract and are registered with the Library to use the Internet.

6.2 Email Access Contract

By the commencement of the Pilot Study all students will have read, accepted and signed the School's Use of Email Agreement Contract and will be registered with the Library to use the Email.

6.3 History Contract

All students will, in addition to the above, sign a contract with the History Department, countersigned by their parents or guardians, that they will use the Internet and the Email only as directed during this Pilot Study and that they will not, during classtime, use the Internet or Email for any other purposes.

Students failing to sign the contract, or students whose parents or guardians fail to sign the contract, will not be permitted to use the Internet or the Email for this unit of study.

It should be noted that all students in this class have indicated an interest in being involved in this Pilot Study and having the opportunity to take part in such an activity.

7. Outcomes

7.1 Student Work

Hard copies of all student work submitted to me via the Email system will be kept in individual student files for both student assessment and assessment by the History Department Staff during and after the Pilot Study.

7.2 Reporting

A full and detailed report on the success of the Pilot Study will be submitted to the Technology Committee at its first meeting in 1999.

The report will include:

7.2.1 Student work - copies of selected work completed by the students covering a range of quality.

7.2.2 Student surveys - copies of a Student Survey which will be completed by the students at the end of the course to ensure accurate feedback regarding positives and negatives of the exercise.

7.2.3 An assessment by the Coordinator of the class detailing any difficulties encountered, solutions found and recommendations for the future.

7.2.4 An assessment by the History Department on the viability of conducting such programs of study.

HISTORY

DEPARTMENT

WEB SITE