



# ***Deaf Communications Institute***

COMPUTER ASSISTED COMMUNICATIONS

October 15, 1982

SRI International  
333 Ravenswood Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Attention: H. G. Nielsen  
Subcontract Administrator

Dear Mr. Nielsen:

Deaf Communications Institute (DCI) presents the enclosed proposal to assist SRI International in its DEAFNET Dissemination Project, as described in SRI Proposal No. ECU-82-114, in response to ED RFP No. 82-041. Cost breakdown for the work statement is included on Optional Form 60 with the appropriate identifiable tasks.

The period of performance for completion of the work to be done is approximately 23 months. The work is to start at the earliest possible date. DCI is agreeable to contracting with SRI for a Time and Materials type of contract but, if necessary, is also willing to negotiate another type of contract.

This proposal is firm for a period of not less than 60 days. Questions concerning the proposal should be referred to the undersigned at (213) 886-6193.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Robinson  
Business Manager

/r  
Enclosures



# ***Deaf Communications Institute***

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## PROPOSAL

Deaf Communications Institute (DCI) proposes to assist SRI International to (1) identify groups of deaf and hearing persons who, because of existing knowledge and/or experience, provide a nucleus for a communicating services system (CSS), (2) participate in two SRI-based training sessions, and (3) arrange for demonstrations of the DEAFNET concept at four conventions for the deaf. The key person to be utilized by DCI in this contract will be Ms. Mary Robinson.

The specific tasks in which DCI will participate in conjunction with SRI Proposal No. ECU-82-114, in response to ED RFP No. 82-041 are outlined as follows:

### Phase I

#### Task 1A

DCI will provide SRI with the names of deaf individuals and groups of deaf or hearing persons who have known computer capability and/or background and who are candidates for forming a CSS. DCI will assist SRI in disseminating the DEAFNET concept to such CSS candidates and encouraging their participation.

#### Task 1B

Mary Robinson will participate in design of training for 10 leaders of deaf communities and in the training session to be held in Menlo Park, CA.

#### Task 2B

DCI will provide the services of Mary Robinson to arrange for the demonstration of the DEAFNET concept at four conventions throughout the period of the contract. Logistical arrangements should include:

- \* Arranging for time on the agenda for a presentation on DEAFNET by an SRI or SRI-designated presenter.
- \* A minimum of one booth to be fully staffed throughout the convention hours.
- \* One private room where in-person demonstrations or discussions can take place.
- \* Sufficient handout materials.
- \* Setting up and dismantling technical and other equipment.

The conventions are assumed to be:

- \* The Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. (TDI) convention in Philadelphia, PA in June, 1983.
- \* The American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) convention in Kansas City, MO in July, 1983.
- \* The Oral Deaf Adult Section of the Alexander Graham Bell Association (ODAS) convention in Portland, OR in June, 1984.
- \* The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) convention in Baltimore, MD in July 1984.

## Phase 2

### Task 5B

Mary Robinson will participate in the SRI-based training of the second set of 10 leaders of deaf communities.

### Task 8

DCI will provide SRI with a report, to be delivered by the last day of each calendar month, describing briefly the events of the month. DCI will be provided with a mailbox on DEAFNET and may deliver this report via electronic mail.

DCI will provide input concerning demonstration at the four conventions for SRI's final report for ED.

## Educational Benefits to Users

### ILIAD

ILIAD is a Computer-Aided Instruction for the Handicapped. There is a special need for English language instruction for deaf children and adults. School instruction is important but other forms of language tutorials should be available to make the deaf person a fluent writer and a capable reader. A specially designed tutorial for both the production and comprehension of written English, entitled ILIAD (Interactive Language Instruction Assistance for the Deaf), was developed under a special HEW/BEH (Bureau of Education for the Handicapped) grant to the Boston University School of Education. It was tested and evaluated by DCI.DEAFNET users.

There are many Computer-Aided Instruction (CAI) programs available, but none written with such a significant impact for the deaf community as the two described here. Both the ILIAD program and the LAN (Language-Adjusted News) were available in the demonstration DCI.DEAFNET.

### LAN

Language-Adjusted News is a news service for deaf persons. For each regular news story that was entered in the system by the

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staff at the Caption Center at WGBH (Boston), a linguistically controlled version was prepared with careful attention given to control of vocabulary, syntax, and inferential content of original materials. A large percentage of deaf people, whose reading level hinders and often prevents them from understanding newspapers and other print materials, have had no easily understood source of news until this experiment with Language-Adjusted News (LAN). They have been able to gather only bits of information or misinformation, depending on friends or relatives for explanations, or else have lived unaware of world events. Some deaf people do not have sufficient language needed to peruse daily news in newspapers and over the years have lost the motivation and desire to read. LAN may be a tool to increase reading skills and at the same time to provide daily news and information.

Teachers of the deaf at all six of the schools have used the LAN in different ways, depending on the abilities and needs of their students. Some used it for independent reading material, or as lessons for Social Studies, English, or reading classes. One teacher made special arrangements to transcribe the LAN into Braille for her deaf/blind students and informed us that this was the first time these students ever had national or international news available to them. One teacher had his student take the LAN into the mainstreamed classroom where both hearing and deaf students can discuss current events on an equal basis. Another teacher supplemented the LAN with pictures from newspapers and magazines, thereby creating a more concrete frame of reference for a low-verbal, limited learning-level student.

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Although this service demonstrated DCI.DEAFNET's capability of providing useful information to this population, the service was discontinued in 1981 due to lack of funding.

#### Medical Information

Medical information was available on DCI.DEAFNET during the three year demonstration under sponsorship of Leonard Morse Hospital in Natick, MA. With the change in message systems (HERMES to TELEMAIL) and the corresponding change in local user to national user, an administrative decision was made to reduce the health information.

Until there are more users in the Boston area, the hospital was unable to justify financing the health and medical information. As a temporary solution, the hospital shares weekly tips provided to other media and a volunteer enters them on to a bulletin board.

#### Cultural Information

During the two years that the Museum of Fine Arts was a part of the demonstration project, one of their staff members developed a program for the deaf community to enjoy regular and special Musuem exhibits. This included broadening the Museum's audience by making its collections as accessible as possible to all potential visitors. Developing audience interest and attendance go hand-in-hand with providing written materials and sign language tours and, consequently, outreach efforts to deaf audiences took the form of visiting deaf groups in the community and distributing flyers at meetings, through the mail, and via DCI.DEAFNET.

DCI.DEAFNET was successful in disseminating Museum information. Access to people on the system meant that users

had comfortable and quick avenues for asking questions and initiating dialogue about interpreted events at the Museum.

Museum staff felt that information sent via DCI.DEAFNET was responsible for at least 75% of deaf audience attendance at the Museum.

Other cultural institutions, such as the Museum of Transportation and the Aquarium, sent notices of their interpreted tours to the deaf community on DCI.DEAFNET through the Museum of Fine Arts contact. This was also true of the Loon and Heron Theater which produces plays for children.

Part of the goal for a cultural information center is to have a clearinghouse for signed cultural events in the Boston area. Evidence that this is possible occurs from different theater groups and museums that are presently including interpreters in their programs. Partial funding for this center was obtained by the Massachusetts Artists Foundation from the National Endowment for the Arts. Thus, continuation of the cultural events continued under different sponsorship.

Additionally, the Project Director of Theatre Access for the Deaf used the network "as a direct line to many of the people who have learned to enjoy these cultural performances." She has had many discussions on the interpreting, the concept of the theatre, the different performances, and the political aspect of approaching hearing theatre companies with this new idea. DCI.DEAFNET has also provided the chance to publicize events and receive ticket reservations directly.

Cultural information will continue on the network as long as funding is available.

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4. There was not enough time in most school curricula to teach the system to the students. However, in one school, (EDCO, Newton, Massachusetts) one interested teacher spent many hours with 14 students learning the system. The students and teacher were so enthusiastic that there was rarely a time when the terminal was unused. The teacher felt that DCI.DEAFNET was an asset to her program. It complimented her social studies program, improved her students' awareness of current events and gave them much needed practice in writing and reading skills.

In an address to a joint session of Congress last night, President Ronald Reagan recommended a sweeping economic program, which would stimulate the country's economic growth and change the size and character of many government programs. The President proposed budget cuts totaling \$41.4 billion in 83 major programs. Seven basic social programs would be preserved as a "safety net" for the "truly needy." Only the military budget is to be increased under the proposal. By 1984, the military's share of the budget will be 32.4 percent.

Proposed tax reductions total \$53.9 billion, with individual tax cuts averaging 10 percent a year for three years. For Mr. Reagan, the first hurdle is getting his program accepted by Congress. The White House has carefully constructed its package to make it politically attractive and insists that budget cuts fall equitably on all programs; those helping businesses as well as lower-income families.

**PRESIDENT REAGAN TALKS ABOUT PLAN TO HELP ECONOMY...**The United States has very serious economic problems. One problem is that millions of people want jobs, but they can't find jobs. Another problem is that prices keep going up. President Reagan has a plan to help the economy. If the plan works, it might be the most important thing Reagan does while he is President. Last night, Reagan talked to Congress about the plan. Congress is the group of senators and representatives from all 50 states. Millions of Americans watched Reagan's talk on TV.

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Reagan's plan has 2 parts.

**1. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND LESS MONEY.**

The U.S. government has a budget. It says how much money the government will spend. Last year, President Carter planned a budget for 1982. Carter's budget said the U.S. would spend \$736,900,000,000. But President Reagan wants the U.S. to spend \$41,400,000,000 less than Carter planned to spend. Here is how President Reagan will spend \$41,400,000,000 less. The government gives money to poor people, sick people, cities, schools, businesses and many other groups. Reagan wants the government to give less money to many of these groups.

But 7 groups will not get less money. Those groups are very important. They help poor people, sick people, old people and handicapped people. And one group will get more money. That is the military.

**2. PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WILL PAY LESS TAX TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

Almost all families and businesses pay tax to the U.S. government. Reagan says if people and businesses paid less tax, then they would have more money. Then people could spend the money and buy more things they need. And American businesses would have more money to hire millions of new workers. Reagan says that would help the economy a lot. Reagan's plan says families would pay 10% less tax in 1982, 10% less in 1983 and 10% less in 1984.

Reagan's plan is only an idea right now. Reagan and other government officials think it is a very good idea. But it is not a law yet. If Congress agrees to the plan, then it can become a law. Congress will probably discuss the plan for a long time. Congress people might change parts of the plan. But President Reagan hopes they will keep most parts.

# Beverly School for the Deaf

6 ECHO AVENUE, BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS 01915

Telephone: 617 927 7070 (Voice or TTY)

Joseph W. Panko, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Elaine S. Moore, Ph.D.  
Principal

February 4, 1981

Mrs. Mary Robinson  
Deaf Community Center  
Framingham, MA 01701

Dear Mary,

Teachers here at Beverly School for the Deaf were disappointed to hear that this will be the last year the Language-Adjusted News will be available. We have found it helpful in so many ways.

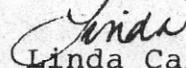
In Upper School we have a group of teenagers reading at a very low level--beginning readers really--and LAN has been the basis of an alternative reading program for them. The reading teacher used LAN selections by rewriting them initially to do preparatory work on vocabulary and concepts. Then the students could read the actual news items with subsequent reading comprehension skill work. It is so difficult to find appropriate, relevant reading material for this type of student, and we were delighted to see how motivated this group was as the students followed stories such as the Iranian hostage situation.

For other, more average students LAN provided a pleasurable current events lesson, since the material was linguistically controlled and therefore not frustrating. Being part of a computer system made the material seem really special.

An interesting "fringe benefit" was the use of LAN with a learning disabled student who had very poor time and space concepts. By following LAN stories over a period of several months and using maps and time lines to record the news items, his ability to talk about "where" and "when" concepts greatly improved.

We've probably just begun to explore some of the ways material like the LAN could be used in schools for the deaf and regret we won't be able to do more with it. Please keep us informed of further developments regarding LAN and the entire computer communication system project. Thank you for including us in this project.

Sincerely,



Linda Carlson, IMC Coordinator

Date: Fri, 7 Dec 79 08:08-PST  
From: grover at DNSRI  
To: wgbh at bbn-tenexa  
Cc: grover  
Subject: the real thing... with thanks!  
Mail-from: SRI-TSC  
Rcvd-Date: 7-Dec-79 1109-EST

for almost three years i have been exploring and urging someone, anyone in the san francisco bay area to provide current events available to tty users.....and in addition to provide those current events in a specially tailored easier readability. such would provide a great service not only to individual tty users and not only to special classrooms for the hearing impaired, but also for other classes of children with various handicaps in our area.

the above explains why, a fedays ago on monday, dec. third, my min was completely b l o w n !!

that was the day i was informed by word of tynmouth by a single individual, rather than by any formal announcement, thayou were providing such a terrific service through the sri deafnet.

my appreciation is endless!!  
my students are so turned on!!

a few ideas for use in the classroom have already come to light, i.e.: clip the high level language report, clip the language-adjusted report for the same current event and clip a newsphoto from the newspaper. paste them all on one sheet. students compare the two levels of language, understanding content from the language-adjusted version and developing vocabulary from the higher level languagversion.

in terms of student interest, they are highly intrigued as to what is happening in the nationworld on a day to day basis.

that is just one idea of several so far.  
if you knoof other classrooms utilizing your new service, please let me know. i would love to exchange such ideas for classroom use.

i would also like to know:  
how long has this wonderful service been available through the sri deafnet?  
will it continue?  
how often will the language-adjusted segment be included? daily? every other day?  
do you have someone there in charge of the service with whom i can continue a dialog?

thanks again for this terrific service. thanks again for my evening with you a year ago.

have a very happy holiday.

best,

grant grover  
teacher, marin county schools, california