

THE BELLE PROJECT

Needs Assessment Survey

December 2000

The Broadband Enabled Lifelong Learning Environment (BELLE) initiative would like to collect information from its partners. To help us achieve this goal, please answer the following questions. While completion of this survey is voluntary, this information will help in both planning the initiative as a whole and, will help with appropriate planning at your institution. Because this first survey is limited to BELLE contacts, there can be no anonymity of comments. However, the information collected will only be used for project planning and will not be released in any form outside the project that will allow for identification of respondents. The survey should only take about 30 minutes to complete. Use the back of the sheet, should you need additional space.

At this stage in the BELLE Project, we are in the final stages of contract with partner sites. When we equip and launch the first five Client Learning Environments (CLE) in February 2001, we want to ensure that each site has identified some users interested in BELLE's objectives.

This document will allow us to:

- Determine the level at which users and activities that can be supported by the BELLE infrastructure can be identified at your institution.
- Ascertain the level of understanding of innovative concepts and activities undertaken by BELLE.
- Design training modules that would be most appropriate for yourself and users at your site.

Please take a half an hour of your time to complete this survey and return it to us by FAX at (403) 282-0838, no later than January 19th, 2000.

Your input will be valuable in ensuring that the BELLE project serves your interests and is able to meet its stated objectives.

Please circle the best answers where required.

I: General Queries

1) Name _____
Position _____
Institution _____

2) How would you rate your awareness of the BELLE initiative and its major goals?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all aware		Somewhat aware		Very aware

3) How would you rate the BELLE project among your other priorities?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at a priority		Somewhat of a priority		Very much a priority

4) Have you identified users (professors, students, clinicians) at your site for the BELLE project? 1...Yes 2...No (go to c)

a) If YES, please indicate how many people. ____

b) What are their positions in your institution?

c) If NO, how do you plan to identify these individuals in the future?

5) From what you currently understand, do these users have ideas or projects for which the BELLE infrastructure can be used?

1...Yes 2...No 3...Not sure

a) If YES, briefly describe those ideas or projects.

6) Please indicate what obstacles you have encountered in trying to identify users or projects.

7) What kind of information would be most helpful for you at this point to help show how BELLE can support innovative work at your site?

8) Based on your knowledge of BELLE, how likely do you think it is that the project will be found relevant to others at your institution?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all likely		Somewhat likely		Very likely

a) If you answered "Somewhat likely" or higher, please indicate some of the areas you think will find the project relevant.

III: Relevance of Project Components to Your Institution

Below are a couple of components of the BELLE project. Please read the short description and then answer the questions that follow.

The Learning Content Model: This component of the project (based on a Project called PRITI – Peer Review of Instructional Technology Innovation) demonstrates a model for encouraging and acknowledging curricular innovation (such as creating educational objects, using technology-based learning processes, as well as using non-technology based initiatives) within the academic environment for evaluative purposes (i.e., tenure, promotion, and salary adjustments).

9) With respect to the Learning Content Model of the BELLE Project, please circle the likely level of interest of the following at your institution:

	Low interest		Some interest		High interest
a) templates for evaluating and assessing the value of innovative curricular products, innovations and processes	1	2	3	4	5
b) discipline-based processes for assessing the quality and integrity of curricular innovations	1	2	3	4	5
c) standards for transferring innovative educational objects and processes between institutions	1	2	3	4	5

The Conceptual Architecture: is concerned with identifying, assessing and implementing standards-based approaches to creating, describing, managing and searching digital content for learning applications. This architecture is informed by the work being conducted by CAREO (Campus Alberta Repository for Educational Objects).

10) In terms of the **technical interface**, please rate the importance to you and your institution of the following.

	Low importance		Some importance		High importance
a) Can be used for research purposes	1	2	3	4	5
b) Is easy to use	1	2	3	4	5
c) Has the ability to integrate digitized objects into curriculum	1	2	3	4	5
d) Know what type of multimedia is available	1	2	3	4	5
e) Helps provide academic credit for creating objects	1	2	3	4	5
f) Has appropriate search parameters	1	2	3	4	5
g) Has appropriate type of user interface	1	2	3	4	5
h) Is supported on different browsers	1	2	3	4	5

11) What media types do you think members of your institution would like to digitize and make available through a repository structure (copyright and business model issues aside for now)? (circle all that apply)

- a) text files
 - b) video files
 - c) images
 - d) audio
 - e) animations
 - f) objects made up of various media types (please specify detail): _____
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12) In performing a search of digital materials, what categories do you think would be useful for users at your institution?

	Not at all useful		Somewhat useful		Very useful
a) subject	1	2	3	4	5
b) author	1	2	3	4	5
c) title	1	2	3	4	5
d) keyword	1	2	3	4	5
e) media types	1	2	3	4	5
f) course numbers	1	2	3	4	5
g) disciplines	1	2	3	4	5
h) institution	1	2	3	4	5
	Not at all useful		Somewhat useful		Very useful
i) discipline specific vocabulary	1	2	3	4	5
j) date created	1	2	3	4	5
k) other (please specify): _____	1	2	3	4	5

13) As entering terms (subject, keywords, search terms) to describe your media files can be a time-consuming procedure (for the database to be used at your institution), how important would it be to have tools that automatically generate certain descriptive (metadata) parameters?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important

14) Currently, the re-purposing and re-composition (not just digitizing, but indexing, coding, editing) of multimedia content requires fairly high-level skills. For the database to be used at your institution, how important would it be to have tools that make the process more transparent and readily applied by the average educator or student?

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all important		Somewhat important		Very important

The Client Learning Environment: is meant to support desk-top to desk-top video conferencing (with collaborative tools) and multimedia serving.

15) Some of the potential uses of videoconferencing are listed below. Please indicate the likelihood that these will find use at your institution.

	Not at all likely	2	Somewhat likely	4	Very likely
a) Videoconferencing/audio-graphics for course or seminar	1	2	3	4	5
b) Videoconferencing/audio-graphics for professional meeting or other type of meeting	1	2	3	4	5
c) Videoconferencing with high profile speaker	1	2	3	4	5
d) Guest speakers – demonstrations possibly short-term videoconferences, other types of interaction	1	2	3	4	5

16) Some of the potential uses of multimedia serving are listed below. Please indicate the likelihood that these will find use at your institution.

	Not at all likely	2	Somewhat likely	4	Very likely
a) Access to a library of video or film clips such as National Film Board (NFB) for class use	1	2	3	4	5
b) Access to learning objects (e.g.:Java programs)	1	2	3	4	5
c) Access to a system to distribute digital video of classes	1	2	3	4	5
d) Access to a distributed system to catalogue and deliver products that you or others at your institution have created	1	2	3	4	5

IV: Evaluation Methods

This survey is the first part of the BELLE Project Needs Assessment. As part of the overall evaluation project we will need to collect information from individuals within your institution.

17) How can we most efficiently contact those most likely to potentially use and benefit from BELLE within your institution?

18) Do you have access to a mailing list or listserv that could be helpful for reaching potential users? 1...Yes 2...No 3...Not sure

- 19) For your institution, which method of survey distribution would be the most effective?
- a) Email contact/Web based survey
 - b) Paper based survey distributed through internal mail
 - c) Paper based survey distributed through external mail (contacts and addresses would be needed)
 - d) Other (please specify): _____

20) What would your role be in this process?

21) Would you be able to help follow-up potential participants so as to get a reasonable response rate? 1...Yes 2...No 3...Not sure

V: General Comments

22) What do think are the major barriers that likely exist for an initiative like BELLE at your institution?

23) Do you have some ideas about ways in which these barriers might be lifted?

24) Can you think of other applications where high-speed bandwidth would be helpful in your or others' research and teaching?

25) Do you have any additional questions or comments?

Thanks for your time.