Harris Pagination Conference Changing the paradigms

> Howard Finberg Director, Information Technology Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.

# Harris Pagination Conference Challenge of following great speakers

- You've heard many of the key issues . . .
- So, thank you very much...let's hit the beach

### Harris Pagination Conference

Changing the paradigm Challenges, opportunities of a new publishing system

- New way of thinking
- New technology
- New installation model

# Changing the paradigm We need new ways of thinking

Challenges facing the industry

 Doing more with less
 Doing more faster

# Changing the paradigm Challenges facing PNI

- Pagination replacement
- Other projects
  - ✓ Business, circulation, advertising, online
- We are not alone with these challenges

### Changing the paradigm With challenges come opportunities

- 21st Century system
- Database publishing
  - Multiple products, same staff
- Improve productivity, information sharing



Some background *About Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.* • Owned by Central Newspapers • CNI is a newspaper company

✓ PNI is CNI's largest property

### PNI's current products

- The Arizona Republic
  - ✓ 400,000 daily, 600,000 Sunday
    - But with pagination, its the page count that matters
- Arizona Business Gazette, business weekly
- Home Buying Choices [free real estate magazine]
- Audio [Pressline] and fax services
- Arizona Central online services [Web, AOL]

# Some PNI pagination history *Cutting edge = bleeding edge*

• If you don't understand history, you are likely to repeat it

### Technology is changing organizations *Understanding when there is a paradigm shift is important*

Looking at history can help Knowing when there is not a paradigm shift is even more important





The shifting paradigm Going from hot type to cold type is evolutionary Going from cold type to digital is revolutionary

### PNI's pagination history *Four waves [and counting...]*

✓ 1. Been there, done it

• Electronic paste-up of galleys

#### ✓ 2. Been there, doing it

• Flat-file pagination of full pages

#### ✓ **3.** Getting there

- Transition to publication database
- 4. Planning the next phase
  - Integrated content & production databases

We asked ourselves a big question *Do we really want to "paginate"* 

## Pagination is an old method **PNI wanted a strategy for the future**

• The key is a publication database

✓ Only we did not know it was called a "database"

# Publishing database New machines are just the start

- If not limited by technology, then what?
- Multiple products from same information

Publication database Struggling to do more • Zoning • Special publications • Spin-offs from print

### Publication database New forms of communication

- Access to information for everyone
- Time to involve more people, not fewer

# Publication database *It is changing the way we work*

- Impact upon the enterprise
  - Production
  - ✓ Editorial
  - ✓ Advertising
  - ✓ Circulation

# Publication database Another key goal

- End the assembly line
- Develop the team concept

### Here's what we want to avoid It looks old, but aren't our newsrooms run on the same principle?



# Changing the paradigm **Project ownership**

• Creating partnerships

### Ownership can be outside the technical department



# Changing the paradigm System ownership

- It's the newspaper's system
- We ALL own it
- And that means ALL departments have responsibilities

I believe in journalism . . .

... but that does not mean there is a holy writ to avoid doing "production" work

# Changing the paradigm Understanding PNI's process

### The process

### **Pagination re-engineering committee**

- Involvement of across department lines
  - Newsroom, Information Services, Production, Library, Advertising
- Sounds obvious
  - How often do we forget those affected

## The process

#### Vendor demonstrations

- Open to the staff
  - Usually over two days so the maximum number of people could attend

#### **Reward involvement**



### Changing the paradigm Specifics list rather than RFP

- Became the "handbook"
- Developed during and after the demonstrations
  - Identified items from different systems

### Specifics list *The Holy 148*

- Design needs, system needs, imaging needs, tracking needs, etc.
  - Allows PNI to compare vendors vs. our needs

### Specifics list

#### Used to keep the process open

- All vendors knew the same "rules"
  - ✓ An open process to keep options open

#### Be honest with everyone



# Changing the paradigm **Project organization**

Develop project management partnership

### The partners

- Project administrator
- Project team leaders
- Project consultants
  - Newsroom, Editorial Systems, Information Systems, Advertising, Production

### The project team goals

- Share ownership
- Avoid knowledge concentration
- Try to build consensus

# Changing the paradigm **Project communication**

## Communication

#### How to reach several audiences?

 Message needs to be consistent, measured and accurate

#### Reward sharing of information -- good and bad news



# Changing the paradigm *Training*

How to provide effective training

 Avoid some of the normal newspaper methods

I teach you, you teach her, she teaches...

## Training

- It is a matter of money
  - ✓ Pay now or pay later
- Allocate the staff to get and do training

## Training

#### **PNI's School of LayoutChamp**

• More than 150 served

✓ Designers, copy editors, content editors, supervisors



#### Everyone plans for training -- plan for the trainer



# Changing the paradigm New type of worker

- Hiring
- Motivation
- Promotion
- Ergonomics

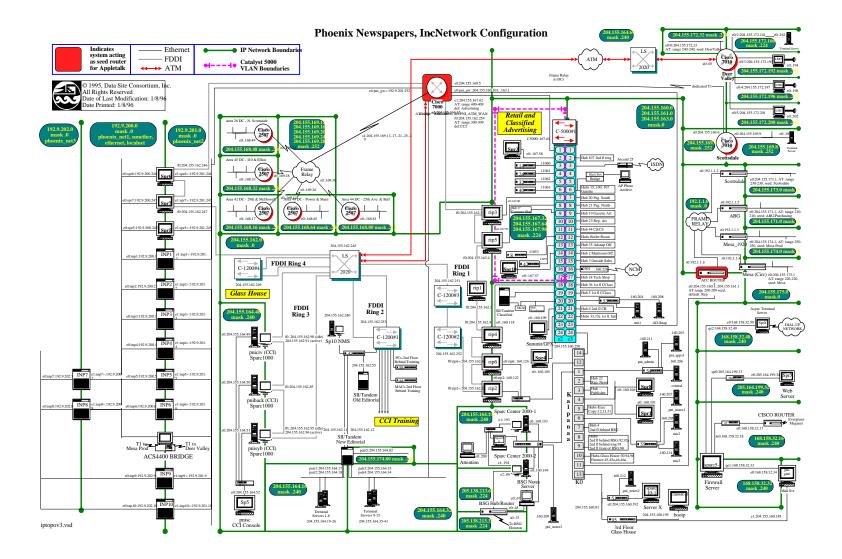
## Technology should free people Not limit what we do

• Where will workflow start?

✓ Where does one function begin and end?

Workflow and structure The organization chart has nothing to do with getting out the newspaper

## The system view of workflow



### Look at workflow as a people process



## **Content & production integration**

#### More than just copy editing

- Move design/production tools into content editing areas
  - Design becomes a function of skill, not computer or location

## New workflow, work groups Decisions, data are shared

• Once it was linear, now work is becoming circular

# Information circle Concept under development

# Information circle

Highlight information

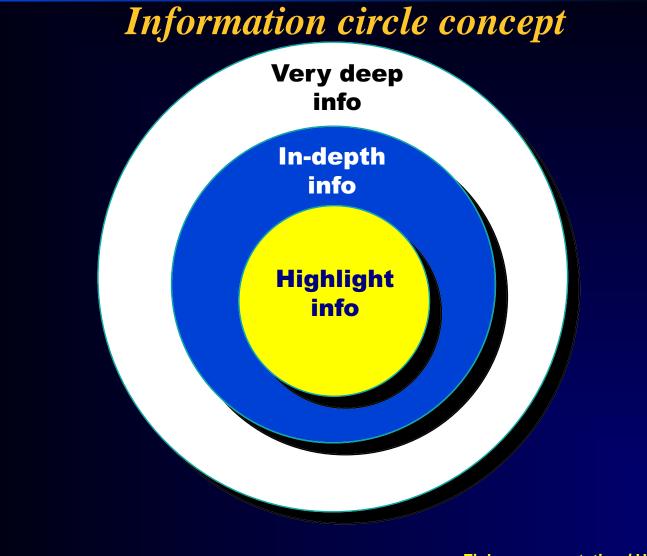
• Window to the world

## Information circle In-depth information

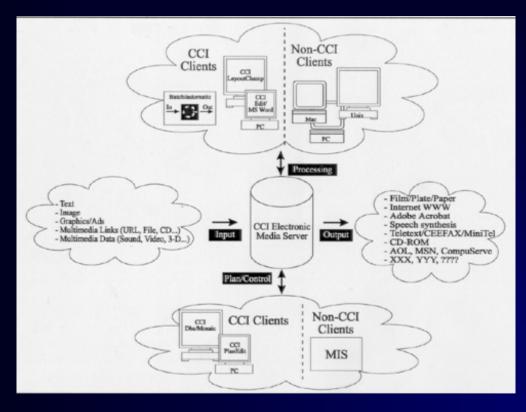
More information, but still tightly edited

# Information circle Very deep information

Background & archives



## Putting the data in the middle A conceptual view



#### Input

Text, images, graphics, audio, multimedia links [URLs, files, CDs...], multimedia data [sound, video]

#### Planning, organizing

Product planning, advertising placement, workflow management

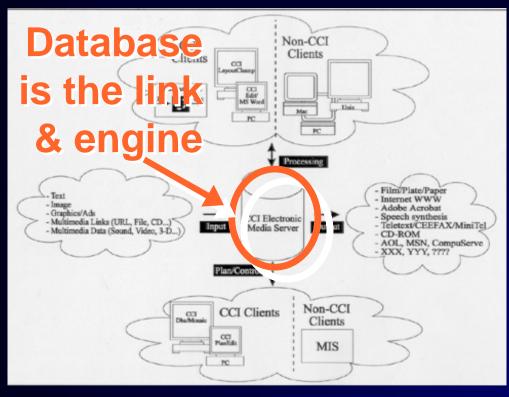
#### Processing

#### Content editing [story and product editing], design/production tools

#### Output

#### Film/plates/paper, Internet [Web], AOL, MSN, Adobe Acrobat, speech/audio, teletext, CD-ROM...

## Putting it all together The data is in the middle



#### In summary OK, you can't speak at the Harris Conference without a Top 10 list • Here's my version

The top 10 issues to deal with when you install a publication database system

#### #10 Imitation

# Don't imitate other projects or sites. One size doesn't fit all



Finderg presentation / Harris / 1.23.97

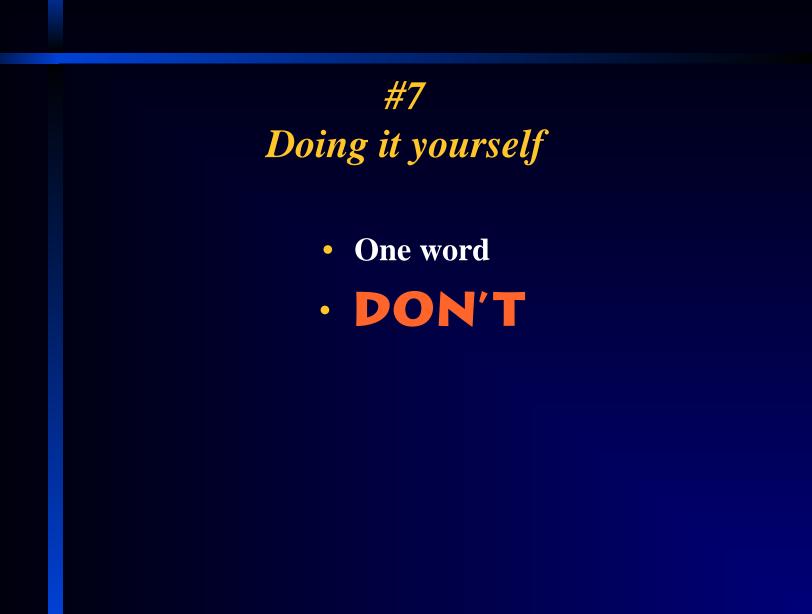
#### #9 Communication

 When trouble comes [and it will] don't run, don't hide. When you see problems, make them public as early as possible

 And don't forget to use technology -e-mail, for example -- to communicate with your partners/vendors

#### #8 Partnership

- Find the right partners within your company, whether in the newsroom, information services or production
  - And don't forget to find a champion at the top of your organization
    - Fou can't do it alone



#### #6 Upgrades

• Find the right balance between fixing current bugs and introducing new ones





 It will cost more than you think, so budget carefully
 ✓ Plan for the unexpected

**Resources aren't just machines, by the way** 



 Take time to step back and review the project. You may find some pleasant surprises

#### #3 Have fun

#### • There will be stress. Find ways to play together





#### • It never stops

#### Jon't forget to evaluate your training program [and needs] on a regular basis

And # 1 issue to deal with when you install a publication system

• Three words

#### TEST, TEST, TEST

## Thank you for your kind attention!



#### Questions? e-mail: hfinberg@pni.com

A copy of this "updated" presentation can be found @ http://www.finberg.com/howard/presents

