

Coventry University Information Systems Strategy - 1999

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Information Systems Strategy - 1999

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Purpose and Scope

- ◆ The Information Systems (IS) Strategy sets out to:
 - define the principles which guide the acquisition, development and replacement of information systems;
 - identify the current priorities for system acquisition, modification and replacement;
 - set broad targets for achievement over the next 3 years.

Purpose and Scope (Cont.)

- ◆ The IS Strategy is a University Strategy consistent with other University Strategies, and in particular complements the *University Strategic Plan*, the *Information Strategy* and the *Information Technology Strategy*.
- ◆ Whereas the principles apply to all information systems, consideration of existing and required systems is limited to those which support the business of the University and excludes those used for teaching, learning and research.

Reasons for the Strategy

- ◆ the absence of an appropriate information system may result in more expensive labour-intensive activity or lost opportunity for the University;
- ◆ Information systems may not be able to exchange data in a suitable form, which leads either to further labour-intensive activity or to inefficiency through data replication;
- ◆ Unavailability of critical information systems in many instances produces an unrecoverable loss of staff productivity;
- ◆ Failure to consider the priority of developments strategically is more likely to lead to resource being diverted from one development to another without achieving a successful outcome;
- ◆ Systems which are functionally good could be used in a less than optimal way through lack of training.

Strategic Aim

- ◆ To introduce and employ effective information systems to assist the University achieve its academic and business objectives and ensure that such systems represent value for money

Principles of IS Provision

- ◆ *Short-term considerations* should not deflect strategic development.
- ◆ *Cost-benefit analysis* of options over the expected lifetime of the system must precede IS acquisition or development.
- ◆ *Package solutions* must be positively sought and should be used where possible and practical.
- ◆ *Items of data* should be input manually to a system once only; other systems requiring the data should obtain them by electronic transfer.
- ◆ *Project management* methods, including tight budgetary control, must be used on all developments
- ◆

Overview of Current Principal Systems and Status

◆ Academic Information System

- The Academic Information System (AIS) provides information on course modules to students.

◆ Access Control System

- A package called Multimax from Group 4 Systems Ltd. is being implemented to permit authorised access to buildings and rooms

◆ CURES

- Coventry University Research System manages publications, expertise, intellectual property rights

◆ LEDGER 2000 and QLF

- Ledger 2000 is the financial accounting and management package from Microcompass Systems Ltd.

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Known Issues

- ◆ The following issues relating to existing systems have been identified without the benefit of an in-depth study:
 - preparation for the Year 2000 date change;
 - data recovery on STREAMS and FMS;
 - the inability of CURES to run in an NT environment;
 - a Badger-FMS data link does not exist;
 - input to the Access Control System is manual rather than being fed from the primary on-line data sources;
 - there is a lack of integration between the Access Control System and the ID Card System;
 - the telephone switchboard is not fed from systems holding similar data, or vice- versa;

Targets for Achievement

- ◆ fix all Year 2000 problems by June 1999 by continuing with the current developments;
- ◆ modify CURES to run in a Windows NT environment before December 1998;
- ◆ fix data recovery on STREAMS and FMS (or their replacements) by October 1999;
- ◆ provide a fully supported web version of AIS by October 1999;
- ◆ improve document sharing and storage by completing proposed CUPID developments by December 1999;
- ◆ complete the currently planned UNIVERSE second release in 2000;
- ◆ complete Payroll/Personnel replacement review and implementation by June 2000;
- ◆ undertake broad-based requirements gathering exercise. This may result in a change of priorities set out here and will certainly bring additional targets. Report to be completed before the end of 2000 at the latest;
- ◆ review the Central Administrative system development policy;
- ◆ provide a Badger-FMS data link;
- ◆ provide electronic transfer for the Access Control System
- ◆ rectify the telephone data problem.

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The End