Setting Up a Macintosh Resource Center

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Buckeye Macintosh Group

One of the driving philosophies of BMG has been our desire to educate and inform both our own membership and the public.   We have examined many different ideas and found one that would be significant.   Establishing a resource center would allow members and the public to have access to the wide range of information and training media available for the Macintosh.

The Buckeye Macintosh Group is a registered user group with Apple Computer Inc., therefore we receive a monthly mailing from Apple.   These mailings contain many different types of material, such as Quick Connect (the Apple User Group magazine),   video tapes (quarterly), updates to Macintosh Technical Notes, Apple System Software, Apple Professional Developer Association (ADPA) information.   The mailings also include third party advertisements and many other bits of information.   We have many other materials we collect locally from Apple events such as their Solutions Guides for Networking, Desktop Publishing and Scientific Solutions.   Finally, there are many third party products such as audio and video training tapes, books and magazines.   Faced with the problem of running a library out of someone's home we decided to look for a public library to take over our collection and combine with their existing material.   We found the Upper Arlington Public Library; they already had Macs and were willing to talk with us about a resource center.

The library currently has two Mac Plus computers available for public use during library hours.   The computers are available for 90-minute periods on weekdays and for one hour periods on weekends .

One Macintosh has two floppy drives.   Patrons may use their own software or floppies from the library collection, which includes word processing, graphics, and game programs.   Plans call for connecting this Mac to an Apple CD-Drive (already purchased) to read CD-ROM disks the library plans to buy.

The other Mac Plus has a 40-megabyte hard drive that contains Microsoft Works, Word, WordPerfect, MacWrite II, WriteNow, SuperPaint, MacDraft, Hypercard, Microsoft BASIC, THINK C, and Turbo Pascal.

Each Mac Plus has an ImageWriter printer.   The library provides ten sheets of paper for each session and restricts printing to ten additional sheets provided by the patron.

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To use the Macs, any Ohio resident with identification to prove residency must get an Upper Arlington library card, sign an agreement to abide by the library's computer use policy, and sign up to use   either computer.

We have reached several agreements, which were formalized into a Memorandum of Agreement.   BMG and the Upper Arlington Public Library Computer Services Department have agreed to cooperate to maintain a Macintosh resource center.   The center will contain materials obtained by BMG and placed in the library computer department for public use.   The reference resources will include Macintosh technical bulletins and other materials provided by Apple.   Some materials will be used in the library on a reference (non circulating) basis only.   The center also will contain some circulating materials. The center will be set up after the library receives additional bookshelves and other display structures during December, (1990).

 For legal reasons all materials will be officially donated to the library. BMG has first right of refusal if any material is not needed now or in the future.   We also can designate whether each donated item should be reference or circulating.   Besides their Mac and software, the CD-Drive will be a great benefit to MacUsers and library patrons.   Public Domain software can be offered that is free of viruses and cannot be removed or altered.   Plans call for a wide range of CDs to be purchased, titles will include Reference material such as encyclopedia, games, learning aides and more shareware.

Another key will be video tapes, the User Group has explored this area in depth.   Besides the videos from Apple, we have found that several companies offer training video tapes.   These tapes cover software on the Macintosh such as Aldus Pagemaker, Adobe Illustrator, Claris Filemaker and Macwrite II and Microsoft Word.   We were very pleased when we reviewed the tapes; the material from several companies was very good.   In particular we found that tapes produced by macCatt video (214-437-2288) have a clear and clean picture. The company sends the video electronically to the tape without using a camera.   We intend on writing a more complete review on videos for NAUTILUS later in 1991.

About BMG:

The purpose of BMG is to provide information, education and aid to its members and the public in the use of Macintosh Computers and related products.   Therefore, BMG provides a monthly meeting, a newsletter, and supports the Aurora Borealis Macintosh Bulletin Board. We also offer a huge public domain and shareware diskette and CD-ROM library (over 2 gigabytes), software classes, Special Interest Groups (SIG's) and a forum for Macintosh users to exchange ideas and share resources.   BMG has now grown to over 200 members.   Members and non-members alike are welcome at any of our monthly meetings.   Please call the HOT LINE for meetings times and locations, (614)-878-1611.   Our Mailing address is BMG, c/o Mark Middleton Pres. 5232 Carifa Ct, Hilliard Ohio, 43026.