



An image database resource for Orthopaedic Surgery

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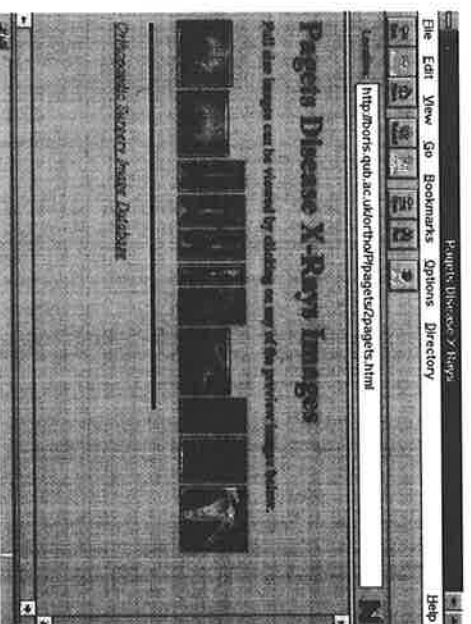
An image database resource for Orthopaedic Surgery

A significant medical teaching resource exists in 35mm slide form in many clinical departments; yet these are so valuable that they are often kept in filing cabinets under lock-and-key. Senior staff may be permitted access when preparing lectures but staff at other sites at this University and at other UK Universities are denied access. Students have never been allowed to examine this educational resource in their own time.

Some 60,000 images are stored this way in Orthopaedic Surgery. Our aim is to use new technology to make these available to all staff and students through the use of digital scanning and a hypermedia database running on a variety of standard Personal Computers or workstations.

Having obtained permission and access, slides were selected for digitisation from the collection, excluding title slides text and simple diagrams, which can be conveniently reproduced on many computer packages.

Batches of several dozen slides are taken from the hospital department to the Computer Centre where a 35mm slide scanner is used to digitise the medical images to a high resolution. This is beyond the capability of current VDU displays, to allow for future improvement in VDU technology or for transportation to a higher specification environment (eg. UNIX). The large digital files are subject to an extreme compression algorithm to conserve disk storage space and to improve file transfer rates. These compressed files are subsequently structured in a database for future use. For convenient access all the files have been transferred to compact disk. In the next few months we plan to



An example page from the Orthopaedic Image Database showing a series of X-rays.

incorporate subsets of these images in a computer-based learning program in collaboration with the Institute for Computer-based Learning. A pilot programme takes each student 30 minutes to complete and we have received positive student feedback. We have also made the database available across the academic network at high speed using SuperJANET. With a Web-browser such as Mosaic or Netscape it is possible to examine the images at <http://boris.qub.ac.uk/ortho/ortho.html>

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British Society for the Development of CAL in Dentistry

Report of the Second Meeting of the British Society for the Development of CAL in Dentistry (previously known as the CAL in Dentistry Developers Group)

The second meeting of this Group was held on Wednesday, 8th March 1995 in the Department of Oral and Dental Sciences at the University of Bristol.

The meeting was well attended, with some 35 people representing dental schools and interested parties from around the United Kingdom.

A number of interesting points were made by the Chairman, Dr Neil Meredith and a very stimulating discussion on the application of standards in software design was initiated by David Pollard from Birmingham.

An active hands-on session followed in the afternoon;

this included ISDN links with a firm of consulting engineers in Northern Ireland.

A draft constitution received unanimous support and the following officers were elected:

President: Dr Neil Meredith;
Vice President: Mr David Pollard;
Treasurer: Professor Chris Stephens;
Secretaries: Mrs Sue Furber and Dr Jane Williams.

There was considerable support for the journal of the society being produced biannually as a CD-ROM.

It is hoped that the next meeting of the Society will be at the CTICM Conference in September.

For further details contact Sue Furber or Jane Williams at the CTI Centre for Medicine.