Pocket-sized lessons

Will we one day use handheld computers to learn how to do our jobs?

THE E-LEARNING ECONOMY
3-D VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS

Plugged In

Solar-powered Internet access?

G
gazines used to be a wait-
ng game at the Palo Le-
rring Center. Only one of the
rnitors computers had a direct
nternet access, and the deal who
came there to do after-school research
ally had to wait
their turn for 15 minutes of use.

A lot of them would just quit and leave,"

results from a recent library survey by the
ning center, which is in the Palo
d Reservoir in southern California.

That changed in October when the
ning center became the first in the
erican Library in San Diego County to be
nnected to the High-Performance Windows
 Research and Education Network at the Univer-
ity of California, San Diego (UCSD).

As part of a $25,000-transferred National
Science Foundation research project, investi-
gators from UCSD have been linking remote areas
the high-speed network for research, scientific and
educational purposes. Learning centers on the
, Labella and Mission Veleta Reservoirs were
presumed candidates because they are located in the
ular Mountain, a low-density pop-
lic area. Labella, in particular, is a rural area with a
ace of 180, so cable access would be
dicult and costly.

For remote educational centers, the need for
is far from the internet end
nt of the connectivity," says Bruce Wolman, principal investigator. With help from such
rn ourselves, the team created an extended
ute point on the reservation to trans-
wirelessly to the learning center and the UCSD campus.

Although the Paiute reservation has power in-
grating their tendons goes to the mountains.
the mountain range where the reservation built the trans-
nstitute was not readily available on the Labella and
Reservoirs. At those sites, the UCSD
oram had to use solar arrays to generate power.

The solar-powered wireless radio network they
created could one day become a model for deliv-
g the Internet to remote parts of the country,
says Bros. He is collaborating with the Southern
California Tribal Community, which recently
received a grant from the Department of Energy to bring
high-speed Internet access to 11 reservations.

Connection to the high-speed network is being
abled to the Paiute reservations by the Internet, which makes
the use of mainframe computers in the
ning center obsolete. In the future, the Internet
students can use computers on the reservation to do
administration and data entry. In the future, the Internet
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-- Ken Kiser