A TOOL FOR TODAY

Here are some of the ways NAPLPS videotex is being used by governments at all levels.

CANTEL WILL TELL YOU JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING

A bold project by the Canadian government has now put government information in shopping malls, libraries and other public locations from coast to coast.

Called CANTEL, the system is a network of NAPLPS videotex terminals which can answer questions on how to find jobs, provide tourist information and give out metric facts and figures – all at the touch of a button.

It can even supply background information for school projects, as well as information on small business loans – the list of subject areas is staggering. Yet, through the simple menu approach, specific data can be found instantly.

The terminals are located in Canada Service Bureaux – storefront offices located in major Canadian cities – as well as at kiosks, standalone terminals, and strategic locations such as malls, libraries and post offices.

They are all linked to CANTEL, the Government of Canada Information Bank. CANTEL holds 50,000 Telidon-NAPLPS pages which contain a wide range of information on federal programs. Many of the pages have been made attractive by the use of full-colour maps, charts, guides, overlays and other display techniques.

For example, one package from the Canadian Government Office of Tourism details points of interest for those planning to travel in Canada. Maps indicate major access routes and provide information about the availability of air, road, bus, water and rail service.

Similarly, Parks Canada provides information on what services are available in specific national parks, how much each charges and which major auto routes provide access.

Employment and Immigration Canada has a 12,000-page job bank which is updated daily. It is a computerized inventory of 7,000 hard-to-fill jobs available through Canada Employment Centres across the country – jobs ranging from construction worker to computer programmer, from jeweller to dental technician.

CANTEL is the largest Telidon-NAPLPS database in the world, the largest government database in videotex in the world and the first such service to operate on a nation-wide basis in North America.

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