

Computer Architecture & Systems – Research Assignment

Assignment Brief – Stage 01

Ballyhaugh village has existed in the county of Roscommon since before records were kept. It has never grown very large, and indeed over the years many of its young people left the village to work elsewhere, mainly in Dublin, though often abroad. Employment is from farming and one or two smaller industries around the village.

With a population of just over 2,000 people at any point in time, many of the amenities of even small towns tend not to be available here. However, the village has had a library since 1892 when Andrew Carnegie sponsored one in response to a request from an employee who had come from the village to work in New York.

The history of the Carnegie Libraries is one of great interest and for pure personal interest might be worthy of further research. Kilkenny City also has a Carnegie Library. However, once the library was set up and the initial funds expended, the library has had to depend on local voluntary donations and the occasional modest grant to keep its doors open.

However, the library recently managed to secure a small grant under an EU scheme to aid disadvantaged regions. The library management team (a small group of interested villagers) have decided that whilst they should add some extra newer titles to their catalogue, that the time has come to start the process of computerisation. It is hoped that apart from the benefits of having a computerised database of members and titles, that they could provide a community resource in the form of a small portion of the library set aside as a small computer section.

Luckily they have the expertise of a retired programmer available who will set up and make all necessary arrangements for the database, irrespective of which database or platform is chosen. It is expected that this will save a considerable amount of money.

Furthermore, the grant from the EU includes a broadband connection. The cost of doing this and the mechanism by which it is achieved is also separate to the amount of the grant.

Though they have not yet received confirmation, they have heard unofficially that the grant will be €5,000. This is for the purchase of computers software, networking, printers, scanners and any other items they choose to obtain.

As this is a very small budget amount it is expected that some creativity in the selection of materials will be used. Apart from two PCs for official library use, and a server to co-ordinate the network, controlling logins, Internet access and file-sharing, it is hoped that as many PCs as possible will be made available for public use in the public computer section.

Deadlines and further information will issue shortly.