



May 3, 2006

## enCore v5 Documentation Project Proposal

This document outlines the enCore v5 Documentation Project Proposal for potential sponsors of this project. It describes the specifics of the project as well as the avenues for sponsors to donate their support.

### Introduction

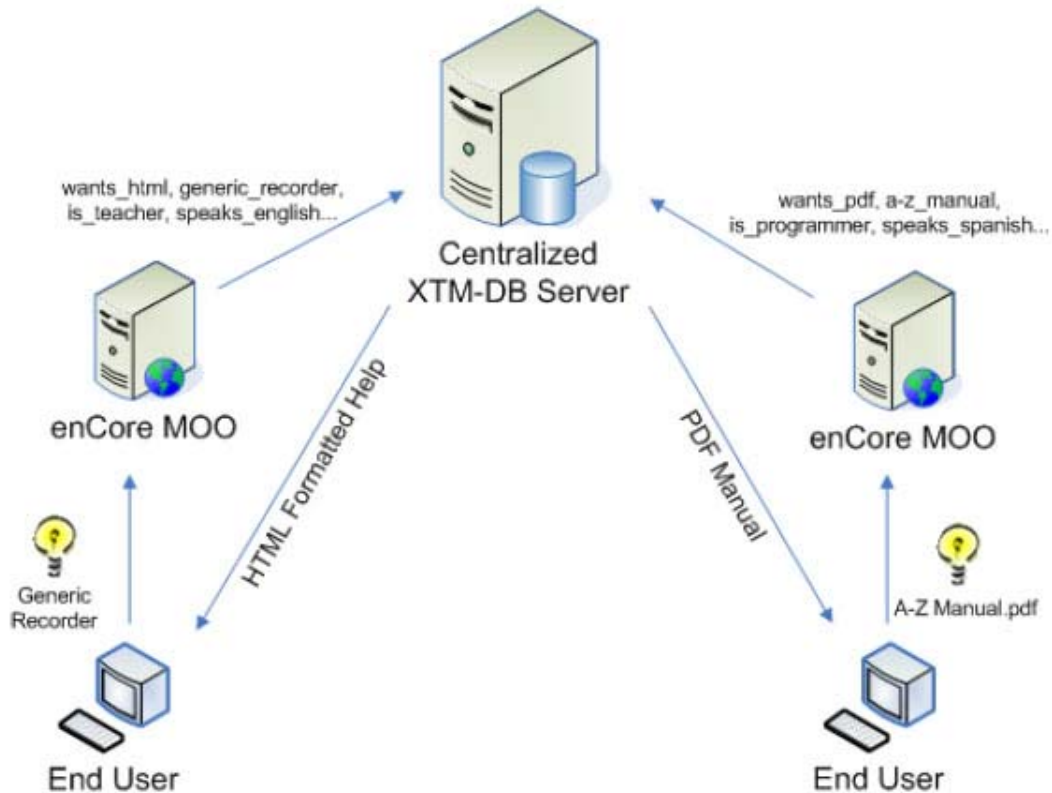
The enCore Program represents an immersive, interactive, and engaging virtual reality environment for learning, offering a unique online setting for communication, collaboration, and community. It is a virtual world in which students can explore and interact, engage in role playing, and even extend and alter the environment themselves. Our goal as teachers and administrators is to use enCore for this online, interactive learning.

In Fall 2006, the programmers at the University of Bergen (UiB) will release a new version (v5) of the enCore Learning Environment that will represent a substantial upgrade in usability and functionality for the program. No matter how excellent the program, however, teachers and students need to understand how to use it in order to take full advantage of all the improvements. Good Help documentation is the foundation for engaged learners within enCore. Because the new version 5 represents an extensive change from the previous version 4, the enCore Consortium--together with its partners the University of Bergen, Norway and Texas Tech University--has begun a project to design new documentation for enCore version 5.

### Project Description

The enCore v5 Documentation Project will create a single-source documentation solution for the enCore Program. Help text will be created once and then distributed to different publishing formats and contexts (such as HTML files, in-program Help, pdf print documents). In addition, the project proposes to host the Help documentation on a "documentation server," so all enCore documentation after this project will be hosted in a single location. With the implementation of this Help system, updating documentation for all enCore v5 users will be much easier in the future, and users will be able to access up-to-date help from within the program whenever they need it. The following graphic produced by Trond Pettersen of UiB summarizes the eventual goal of this project:

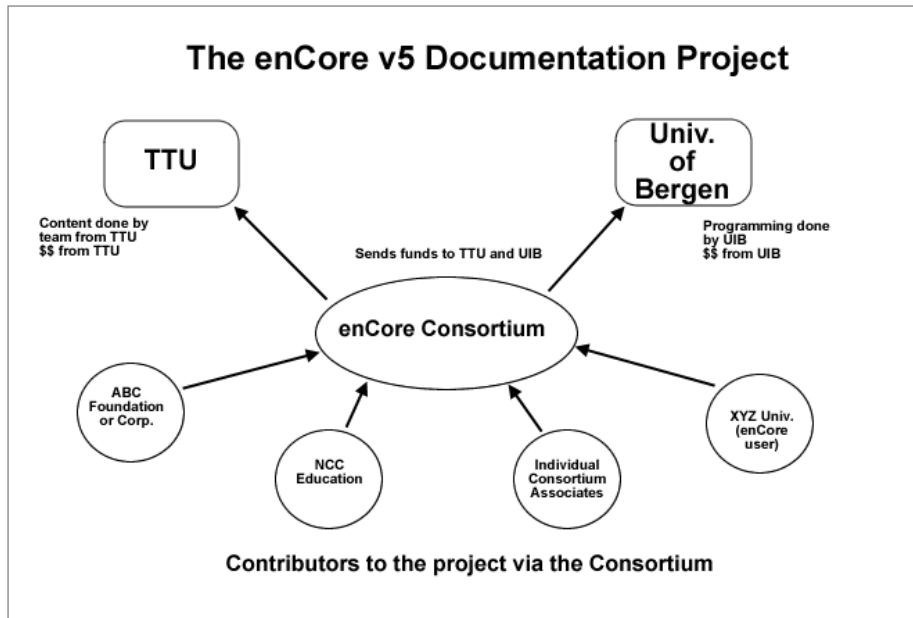
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UiB and its chief programmers—Daniel Jung and Trond Pettersen—are currently programming the "mechanics" of this single-source documentation configuration illustrated above. The Help text will be created in English first and then translated into various other languages for other enCore sites.

Texas Tech University's Technical Communication and Rhetoric Department has agreed to supervise and create the Help text side of this single-source documentation project. TTU will lead a team of graduate student writers with solid experience in Technical Writing as well as single-sourcing and XML to work this summer to produce all (or the majority of) the Help text for the single-source system being created by the programmers. The objective is to produce good in-program Help as well as a web Help guide for the official release of enCore version 5 in the Fall of 2006 (the pdf print version may take longer and come later).

The Consortium's role is to establish the direction and guidelines for the documentation project, to evaluate the results, to provide funds for these twin anchors (programming at UiB and content creation at TTU), and to solicit donors for the remaining costs. The graphic below illustrates the partnership between TTU, the enCore Consortium, and the University of Bergen in this project:



Funds invested in the Documentation Project by individuals and sponsoring institutions or foundations will be donated to the enCore Consortium (a non-profit organization), and then the Consortium will redistribute these funds to University of Bergen or Texas Tech University to finance their efforts. (For more information about the enCore Consortium, Texas Tech and the University of Bergen see Appendix C.)

### Evaluation and Sustainability

UiB and TTU will establish various levels of evaluation: 1) in-process metrics to track various stages in the production process; 2) iterative (or formative) evaluation and usability testing of proto-type and preliminary versions of products in the process of production to catch needed changes early; and 3) summative evaluation where the final product undergoes a more thorough usability test. Evaluation of the project includes an interim report by July 15 to all parties involved as well as a final project report by September 1, 2006

The development of Help documentation for enCore v5 within this single-sourcing model will, in fact, be an ongoing process that extends beyond this summer and the bounds of this particular funding request. Importantly, the establishment of a single-source documentation system will make future edits and updates to the documentation much easier. In that way, this project builds in better and more sustainable documentation for enCore through future releases by making it easier to produce this help.

## Matching of Interests Between You and the enCore Consortium

Your support of this project is very important for these reasons:

### Benefits to You of the Documentation Project

- In whatever way you use enCore, you have a stake in making that class or that program or virtual learning world successful. One part of making that effort successful is having an online learning environment that promotes teaching and learning. An improved version of enCore with useful and efficient Help documentation will benefit the educational experience of all those involved in your class or program.
- Your support of the Documentation Project solidifies your association with the enCore Consortium, enabling you to participate in and benefit from your connection with the Consortium to a greater degree. These benefits from association include
  - participation in a community dedicated to the serious use and development of enCore
  - ability to request the assistance of talented programmers to implement some idea you may have for your site
  - a hands-on role in shaping the direction of the program
  - added credibility for your own professional or institutional activities related to enCore use and development, especially for grant requests.
- The enCore Consortium is a non-profit corporation (501(c)3), so donations to the Consortium are tax-deductible for individuals in the United States. Please note: The IRS form requesting 501(c)3 status was filed in early January 2006; we expect to receive confirmation of our tax-exempt status in the near future.

### Benefits to the enCore Consortium of Your Support for the Documentation Project

- Your support for this project helps the Consortium fulfill its mission to "coordinate and promote the open source development and distribution of the enCore Program."
- Your support of the enCore Consortium's Documentation Project builds the Consortium's credibility for making future government or foundation grants which will further promote enCore development to the benefit of all enCore users.

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**Budget**

Below is an outline of the budget for this project:

- A. Programming the single-source XML database and integration with the enCore database (done by UiB) --- \$12,000  
This represents 3 months of programming/work at \$4,000/month
  - B. Documentation content writing (English) --- \$9,000  
This represents 3 months of work at \$3,000/month or approximately 600 hours of work @ \$15/hour  
(This could fund a team of three writers or other configurations.)
- Total Projected Cost of Project: \$21,000**

**Current Contributions Already Donated to the Documentation Project:**

UiB	\$6,000	toward programming
enCore Consortium	\$3,000	toward programming
TTU	\$4,000	toward Help text creation
enCore Consortium	\$2,000	toward Help text creation

**Total Amount Contributed to the Project Already: \$15,000**

**Remainder of funds needed from partners and sponsors: \$6,000**

(See Appendix B for a detailed Task Summary and Budget Chart)

<b>Project Timeline:</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Mar.</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug.</b>
<b>Programming (UiB)</b>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX						
<b>Beta v5 Release</b>				XXXX			
<b>Usability Testing v5</b>				XXXX			
<b>Help text team formation</b>				XXXXXXX			
<b>Help text composition</b>					XXXXXXXXXX		
<b>Usability Testing v5 Help</b>							XXXX
<b>Release enCore v5</b>							XXXXX

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### What We Are Asking From You

We need your help to fill in the \$6,000 gap we have in funding this project. Even small amounts mean a lot because they show that the Consortium has the support of its members which helps us substantiate our status as a non-profit and build credibility in the eyes of other potential sponsors. If there is the possibility to gain support from your institution, please let me know how we can assist you in that process.

Since the programming portion of the project has already begun, and the Help text writing will happen this summer, we need your support now.

Checks can be made out to "The enCore Consortium" and addressed to:

Dr. Barbara McManus,  
Treasurer, enCore Consortium  
5 Chester Drive  
Rye, NY 10580

Please include your full name and mailing address, so that written acknowledgment of the amount of your contribution can be mailed to you. The enCore Learning Environment is a wonderful online tool for us and for our students, and version 5 promises to be an excellent improvement. Your support for this documentation project will help the release later this year be as complete and usable as possible.

Respectfully Yours,



Lennie Irvin

President, enCore Consortium  
San Antonio College, Dept. of English  
1300 San Pedro Ave.  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
(210)733-2517– [Lirvin@accd.edu](mailto:Lirvin@accd.edu)

## Appendix A

### Resources and Additional Information:

- Single Source Documentation for enCore Xpress --proposal prepared by Trond Pettersen that outlines the programming aspect of the project  
[http://lingo.uib.no/v5/help\\_encore.pdf](http://lingo.uib.no/v5/help_encore.pdf)
- enCore Consortium Home Page (includes information on the Board of Directors and Associates)  
<http://www.encore-consortium.org/>
- enCore Portfolio of MOOs  
<http://lingua.utdallas.edu/encore/moos.html>
- enCore Open Source MOO Project Home Page  
<http://lingua.utdallas.edu/encore/>
- LINGO Project Home Page  
<http://www.lingo.uib.no/>
- enCore v5 Information Site  
<http://lingo.uib.no/v5/>

## Appendix B: enCore Documentation Task Summary and Budget Chart

**Goal**—To make the new release of enCore v5 easy to use by creating clear, efficient documentation, enabling students and teachers to interact and learn online in powerful ways.

Task ID	Objective or Task Name	Start/End dates	Resources Needed			
			Personnel	Costs	Non-Personnel	Costs
	<b>Objective 1:</b> Create the programming and XML formatting necessary to establish single-source documentation for enCore v5 publishable in various formats.	3/06 – 6/06	Trond Pettersen, Univ. of Bergen (UiB)	\$4,000 per/mo. -- three months full time work		
1-A	Establish documentation database, PHP interface, XML parameters				Portion of Web server	Unknown --UiB covered
1-B	Customize DTD and XSLT from DocBook				Open Source	free
1-C	Set up means for inputting text in XML format into documentation database.					
1-D	Program enCore to display help from documentation server		Trond Pettersen, Daniel Jung			
1-E	Iterative evaluation of programming throughout project.					
	Subtotals for Objective #1			\$12,000		
	<b>Objective 2:</b> Create the Help text content to be delivered via the single-source documentation in various formats.	6/06 - 8/06				
B-1	Project planning, preparation --establish Table of Contents --test help content input to doc database --XML learning curve --enCore learning curve	4/06- 6/06	Lennie Irvin, Daniel Jung, Trond Pettersen, (also TTU personnel involved)	-0-		
B-2	Help Content creation --written in XML following parameters and DTDs established by Objective #1 --Approximately 300 Help "subjects" to be written	6/06 - 8/1/06	TTU personnel --faculty advisor --paid internship --stipend Consortium assistance	600 hours @ \$15/ho = \$9,000	Text editor for writing in XML (perhaps XML editor)	-0-
B-3	Evaluation/Usability Testing --early developmental --mid-project --post project (pre-v5 release)	--6/06 --7/06 --8/06	TTU Personnel  Consortium	--part of above task	--discount; no usability lab needed (though it is feasible)	-0-
	Subtotals for Objective B			\$9,000		
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>			<b>\$21,000</b>		

<b>Objective 1 Cost</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>Objective 2 Cost</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
Less funds already committed to the project	\$6,000--UiB \$3,000--Consortium	Less funds already committed to the project	\$4,000--TTU \$2,000--Consortium
Total Amount Needed from Other Sponsors to UiB	<b>\$3,000</b>	Total Amount Needed to Fund Help Content Creation—to TTU	<b>\$3,000</b>

## Appendix C

### Partners in the enCore Documentation Project

#### **The University of Bergen (UiB), Department of Humanistic Informatics**

(<http://www.lingo.uib.no/>)

Since 1997, UiB has used the enCore learning environment for its LINGO Project. Originally conceptualized and led by Espen Aarseth and Carsten Jopp, and now by Daniel Jung, the LINGO Project has developed internet-based educational environments ("artificial worlds") focusing mainly on language-studies. The five enCore learning environments supported by the LINGO Project are:

[Dreistadt](#) (German) | [MOOlin Rouge/iveren](#) (French) | [A Midsummer Night's MOO](#) (English) | [Ponte Italiano](#) (Italian) | [Nettspansk](#) (Spanish)

Support to UiB for the LINGO Project is paid by the various institutions who use these enCore sites.

Jan Holmevik, the principle programmer for enCore versions 1.0- 4.0.1, worked on the project as a graduate student at UiB up until 2004 when he received his PhD. Daniel Jung, along with other programmers and support personnel employed by UiB, continue to develop the enCore Program and maintain it for the LINGO Project.

#### **The Texas Tech Department of English program in Technical Communication and Rhetoric** (<http://www.english.ttu.edu/tc/>)

The Technical Communication and Rhetoric Program (TCR) at Texas Tech University offers degree programs in technical communication at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. The TCR program has fifteen tenure-line [faculty](#) who specialize in technical communication and rhetoric, offering expertise in a range of areas including software documentation.

The TCR program offers online Master of Arts in Technical Communication degrees and PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric degrees. All course in this online graduate program are offered through the TTU English MOO, and enCore online learning environment.

#### **The enCore Consortium** (<http://www.encore-consortium.org/>)

The enCore Consortium is a non-profit organization formed in 2004 with the mission to coordinate and promote the open source development and distribution of the enCore Program. The Consortium presently has 79 members (or associates) from 37 different MOOs in at least 11 different countries ([List of Associates](#)).

The enCore Consortium is a direct outgrowth of the enCore MOO Project started in 1997, and one of the Consortium's primary goals is to continue the development of the enCore program, making MOO functions work more smoothly and powerfully in a web environment.

The current Board of Directors includes: Lennie Irvin, San Antonio College, President; Dr. Barbara McManus, Professor Emeritus, The College of New Rochelle, Treasurer; Cynthia Haynes, Clemson University, Secretary; Dr. Ron Broglio, Georgia Tech University; Daniel Jung, University of Bergen, Norway; Rhonna J. Robbins-Sponaas, Florida State University and Trondheim, Norway; Dr. Jeffrey Schneider, Vassar College.