Chapter 6

Relatively Stable Discourse: Documentation & Training



On-Line Reference Based Training



On-Line Product Knowledge



On-Line Procedures

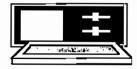


In this Chapter
...a Series
of Applications
to Relatively
Stable Subject
Matters...





Computer-Based Training



Corporate Applications



Computer-Based Marketing Tools



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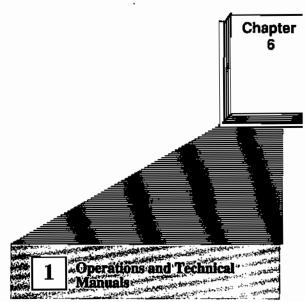
Overview of This Chapter

Introduction

We defined one of the major discourse domains as that of relatively stable subject matter. In business this is where we find procedures, policies, documentation and training materials. When writing about these areas we take the stance that the subject matter is stable — not changeless forever, but not going to change every day. In this chapter our primary aim is to present some case studies and examples of different applications of Information Mapping's method to on-line hypertext information retrieval situations. This will give the reader a more concrete idea of the method and its applications to on-line text.

Contrast With Paper

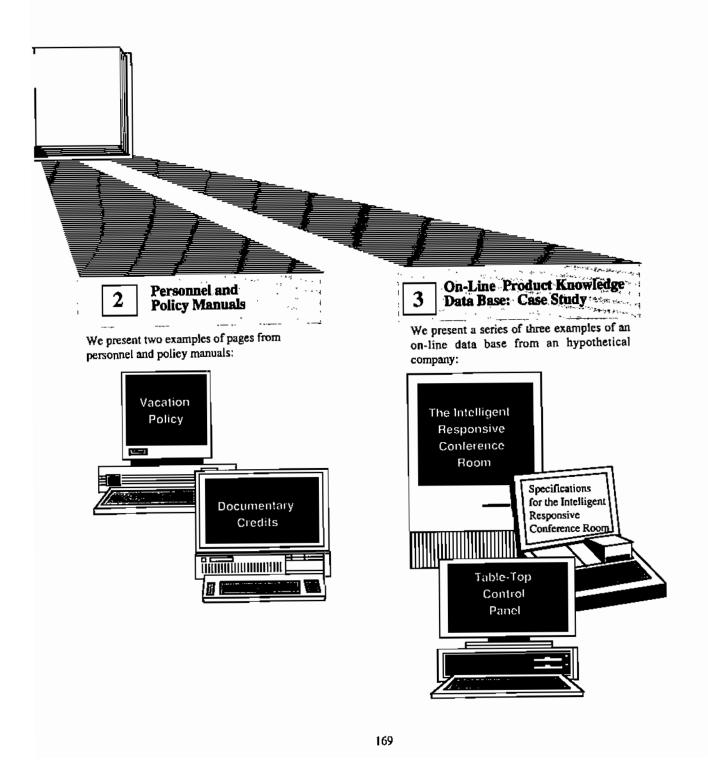
To see examples of paper-based display of the Information Mapping method



We present two examples of pages from operations and technical manuals:



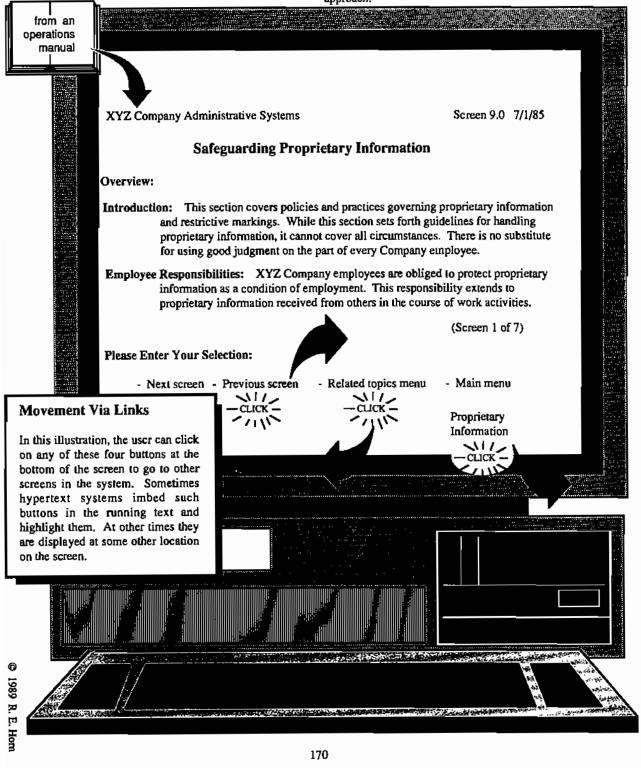
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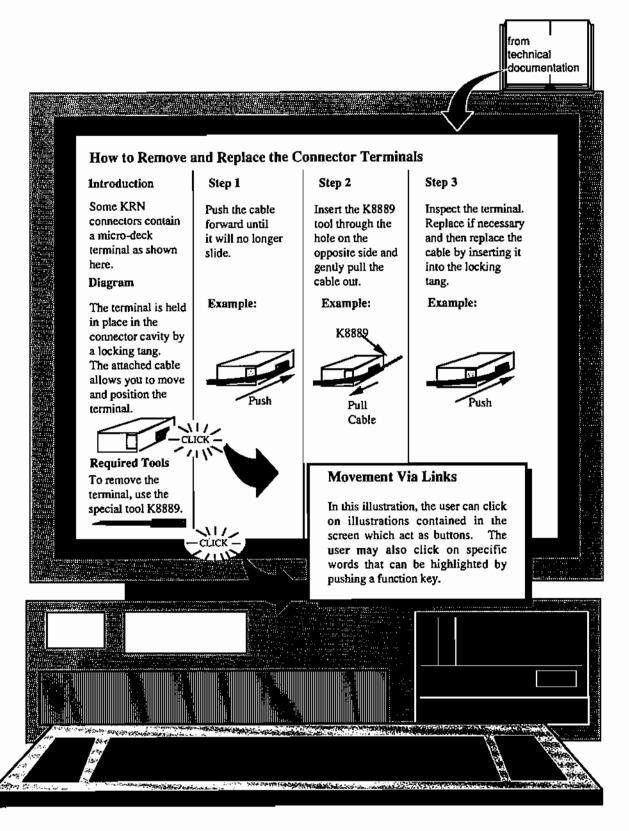


Operations and Technical Manuals

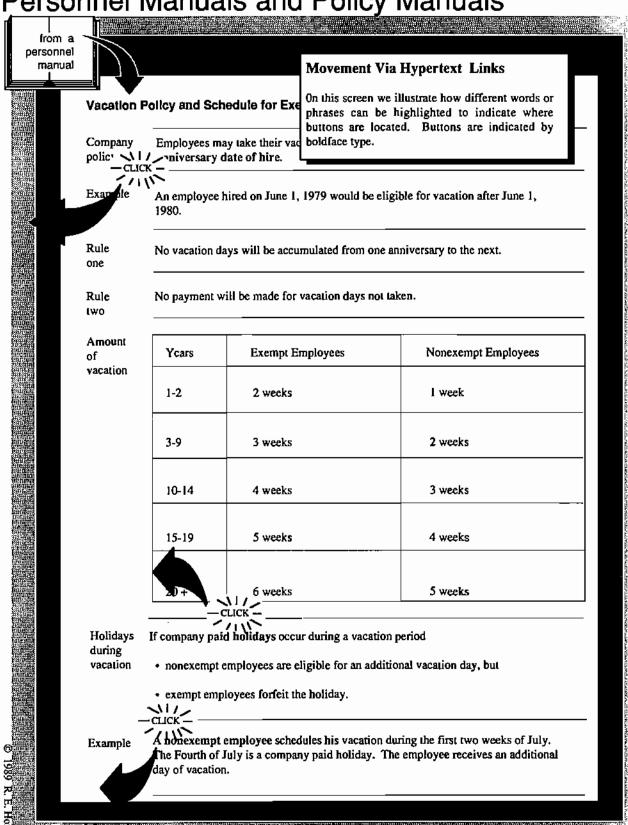
Introduction

On the following four pages we present examples of screens from manuals that fall under the classification of relatively stable subject matter. The manuals from which they are extracted have been prepared with Information Mapping's approach.





Personnel Manuals and Policy Manuals



from a policy manual

Documentary Credits

Definition

A documentary credit is a conditional bank undertaking of payment for settling international commercial transactions.

How transactions work

Briefly stated, in a documentary credit transaction

- the buyer (synonym: applicant) asks
- the bank (synonym: issuing bank) to give a written undertaking to effect a payment
- up to stated sum of money
- within a prescribed time limit
- against stipulated documents, to
- the seller (synonym: beneficiary).

The system of documentary credits provides security for both the buyer and the seller by assuring that

- all documents are in order (certificate of origin, commercial invoice, insurance policy, bill of lading, etc.)
- · the seller will receive payment.

Important

Payment against a documentary credit does not necessarily ensure that the shipment's contents are in order, only that the papers are in order.

Conditions: buyer

Payment is made on behalf of the buyer against documents which give the buyer the rights to the goods.

However, according to arrangements between the buyer and the bank, and/or local laws or regulations, the buyer may have to

- · make an advance deposit when it requests the issuance of the credit, or
- place the issuing bank in funds at the time that the documents are
 presented to the overseas banking correspondent of the issuing bank.

Conditions: seller

The issuing bank pays the seller who does not have to rely on the buyer and the buyer's ability and/or willingness to pay.

However, the seller can demand payment only if he/she meets all the requirements of the credit.

Therefore, the seller should not proceed with the shipment until he/she is

- · aware of the requirements, and
- · satisfied that the requirements can be met.

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Introduction to Product Knowledge Case Study

Background

We have introduced the concept of relatively stable discourses Δ^{α} elsewhere. It is the province of training manuals, documentation, and reference manuals. It would be well to look at this discourse to see how it is different from other kinds of discourse. The best way to do this is to examine a structured hypertext knowledge base in detail. We will do that in this chapter.



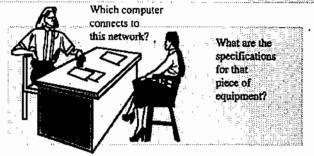
Case Study Situation: Need for Product and Services Knowledge



Needs of Users

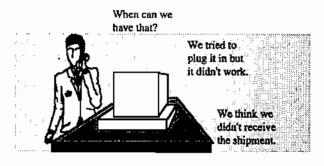
Salespeople

Sales people need to have information on all of a company's products and services at their fingertips so that they can work with customers to plan installations and make sales.



Customer Service

The customer service people need to have all the information of a company's products and services to be able to answer questions and take orders and to provide other services in the implementation phase.



Instructors

Instructors receive a lot of questions from their trainees about how the training affects various aspects of the company's products and services. They need to be able to answer them.

Who else in our industry has installed the product?

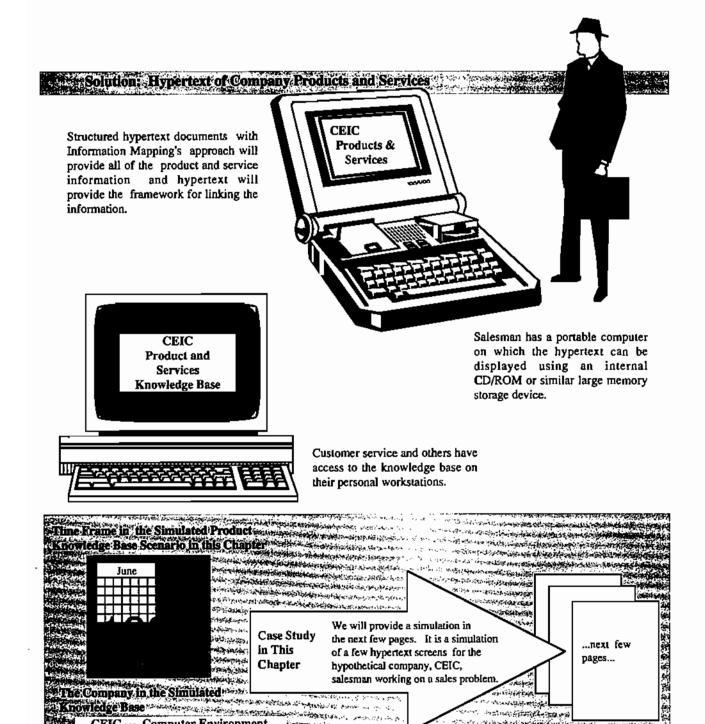
Managers in All Parts of the Company

Managers in other parts of the company need information on all the company's products and services for planning and coordinating. They need to have the biggest picture possible as well as correct detail. How is what I'm
planning going to
fit in with our
existing product
line?

Before we start making
up a new way of doing
it, maybe we already
have a policy on that
contract item.

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CEIC --- Computer Environment

Interfaces Corporation

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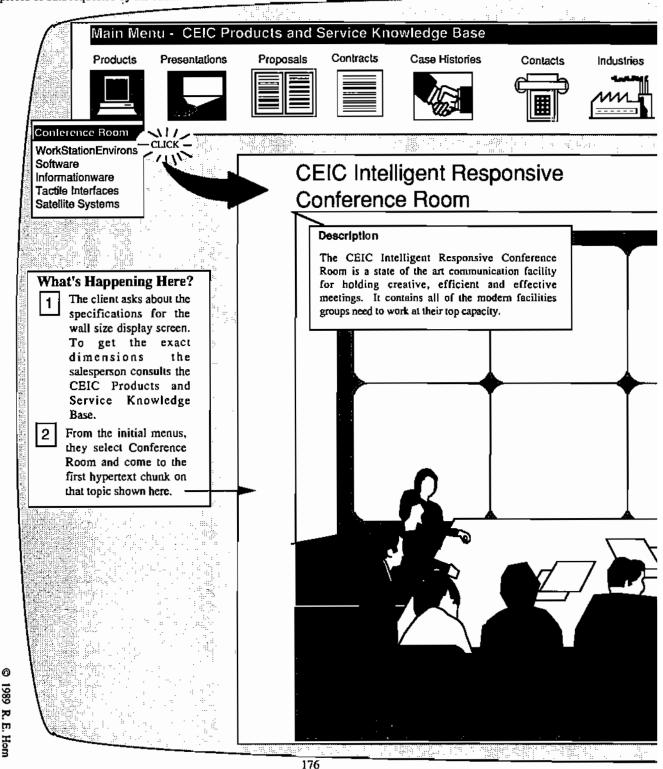
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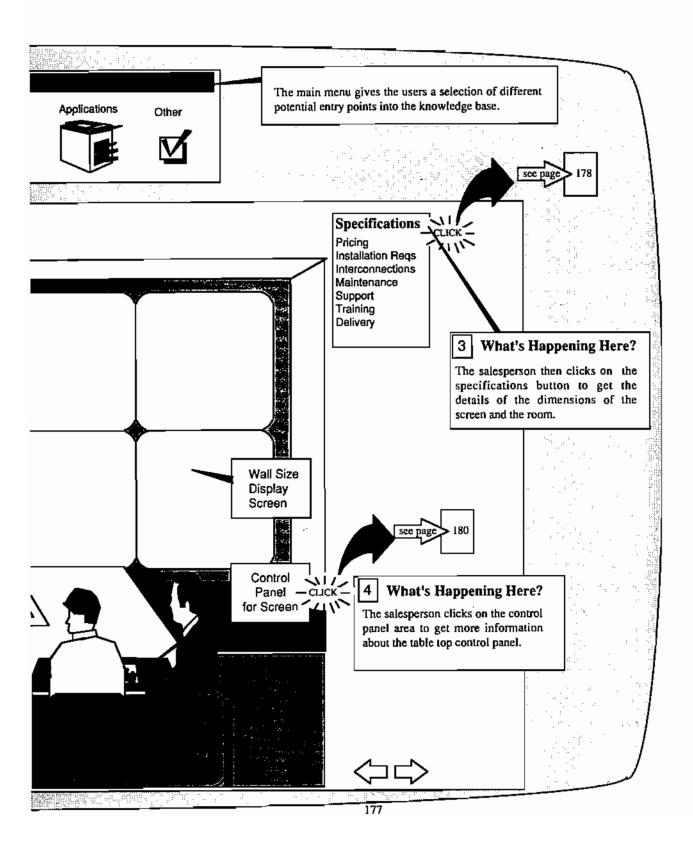
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Product Knowledge Case Study: Main Menu

Introduction

Here we begin the case study which we described on the previous page. The salesperson is searching for specific pieces of data requested by the client.

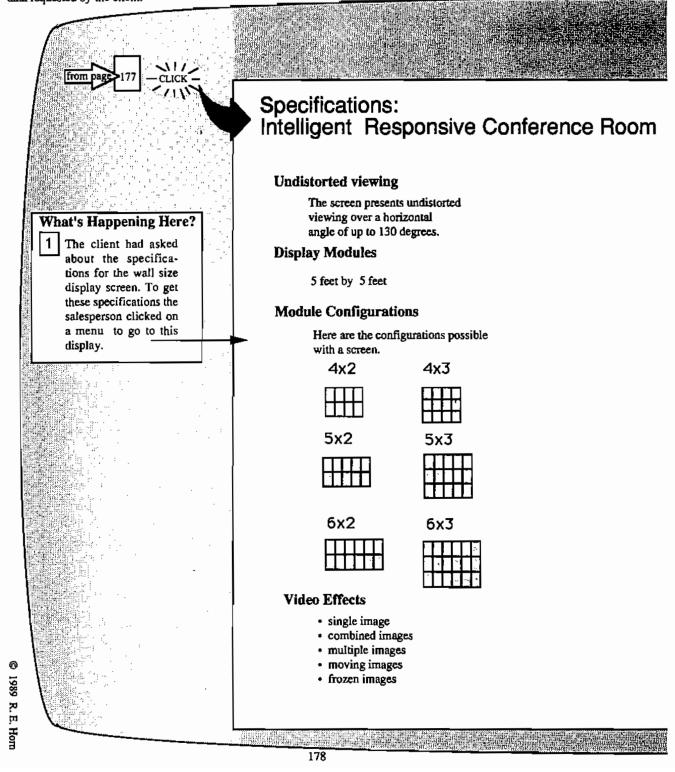


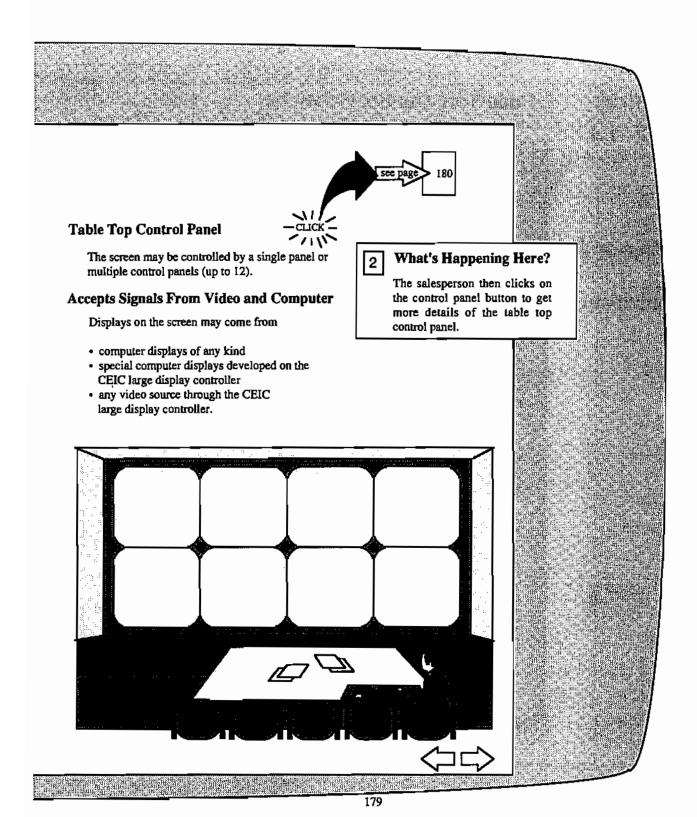


Product Knowledge Case Study: Specifications

Introduction

This is the second display of the case study we began on the previous page. The salesperson here has found the specific data requested by the client.

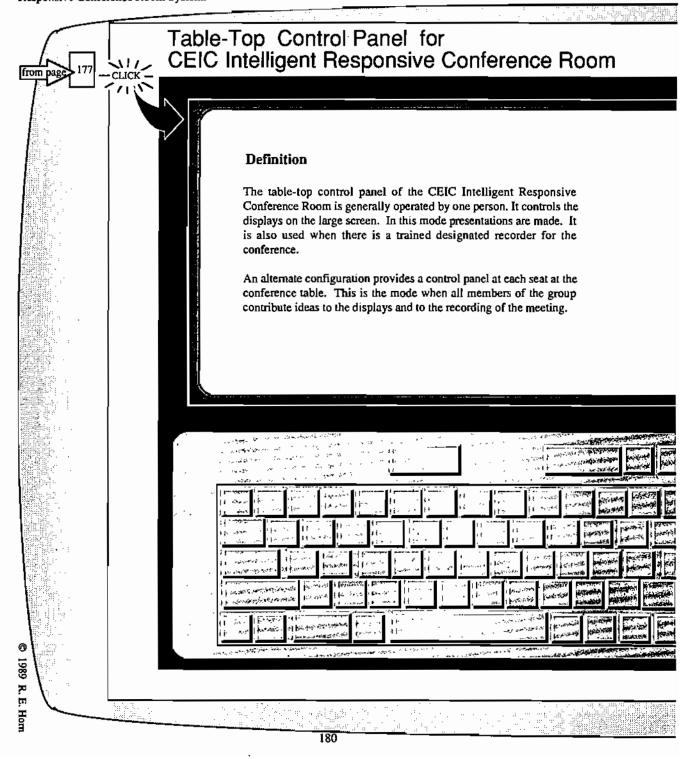


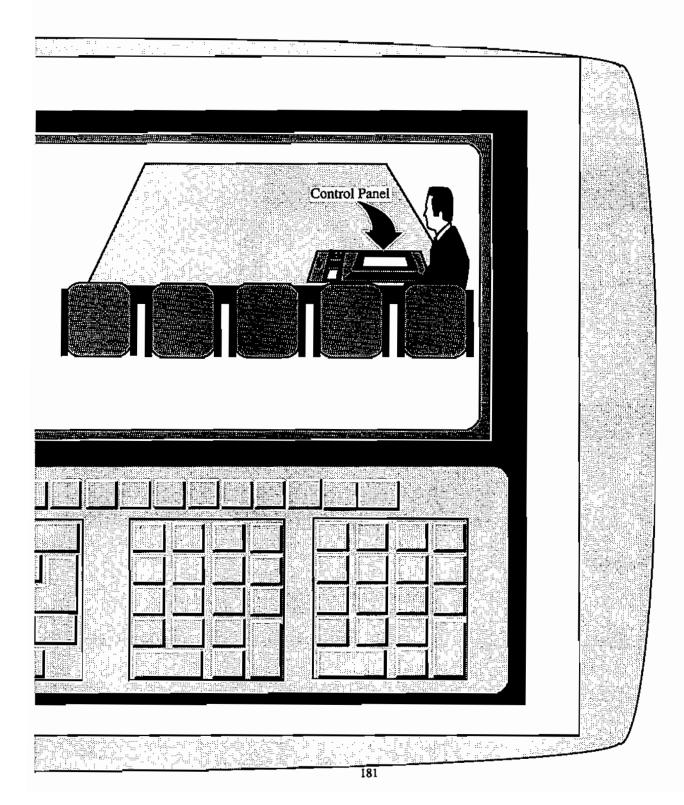


Product Knowledge Case Study: Control Panel

Introduction

This is the third display of the case study we described on previous pages. Here the salesperson has asked to see more information on the control panel of the CEIC Intelligent Responsive Conference Room System.





Access by Task-Driven Procedures

Introduction

One of the ways that the user can move around in a knowledge base of relatively stable subject matter is through task-driven procedures. The user has to do something or

