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Updating the Laboratory Notebook: Electronic Documentation Software in Teaching and Research

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Project Title: **Updating the laboratory notebook: electronic documentation software in teaching and research**

Principal Investigators: Zhaohua Dai & Daniel Strahs=

Cornerstone # 3

Interim Report – June 1st, 2010

Original goals:

1) The PI and Co-PI plan to initially deploy LabTrack electronic notebook in their research laboratories starting in Spring, 2010.

2) The faculty members and their research students will retire their paper note¬book and use the electronic notebook exclusively to get familiar with the software, includ¬ing the construction of various templates to guide notebook entries.

3) The faculty members will also build templates for their chemistry, biology and forensic science teaching labs and perform mock-runs to ensure that LabTrack can be used in their Fall, 2010 teaching with minimum glitches.

4) Workstations will be deployed in various teaching laboratories to provide both the LabTrack electronic notebook software and additional software packages to en¬hance the interface with scientific instruments and the laboratory environment.

5) The teaching labs will be evaluated by science faculty who are familiar with information technology.

Status of goals:

Goal 1:

Compatibility issues between the software, Windows 7 OS and Pace security regulations delayed the deployment of the software on specific workstations until late March 2010. We are still investigating the deployment of software through Pace servers.

Goal 2: Individual user accounts were set up in the PI's laboratory. Our research students are using the electronic notebook in summer research to identify glitches so that we can optimize the protocols on using this system.

Goal 3: Delayed due to goal #1 and goal #4.

Goal 4: We acquired six Dell desktops and six carts and the LabTrack software in January 2010. However, hardware problems in hard drives and wireless cards prevented the deployment of the workstations;

DoIT devoted extensive time to solve the compatibility issues. B&G built the mobile carts during February 2010. Compatibility issues between the software, Windows 7 OS and Pace security regulations delayed the deployment of the software until late March 2010. These delays prevented deployment of optimized workstations At present, All six desktops were installed in the carts for easy use at different labs and at different instrument stations.

Goal 5: Delayed due to goal #1 and goal #4.