

## An Introduction to MARCEL

MARCEL is an umbrella organisation of like-minded artists, scientists and institutions interested in exchange and collaboration, operating over a permanent high bandwidth interactive network dedicated to artistic, educational and cultural experimentation, exchange between art and science and collaboration between art and industry.  
<http://www.mmmarcel.org/intro.htm>

A MARCEL Member is an institution or individual, sharing interests, who has agreed to participate in the project, designate a MARCEL liaison, open a high bandwidth connection (anything from ADSL Pro to multi-mega bandwidth), find interested and committed people within the institution and install a multicasting platform. It is then up to the new member to start communicating with old friends and new.

The core of the MARCEL operation is the Working Group made up of a number of MARCEL Members working together on a specialised project built around an artistic discipline, project or proposal. Having nearly 135 Members in over 20 countries, the WG's are the principal way of operating effectively over the network and to advance the objective of occupying the network space with artistic, educational and cultural activities. Working Groups have their own coordinator and their own working schedule. The first groups are listed on the MARCEL web site and come and go as projects are completed.

Each Working Group generally has its own site for posting information on its activities and communicating between its members as well as other pertinent information. They have only recently begun and the overall objective of the project is to have 25 WG's operating by the end of this coming academic year.

MARCEL operates over a multicasting platform, Access Grid, which permits instant interactive contact with several sites simultaneously. The platform, developed by the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, operates over the interconnected academic high bandwidth research network and is an extensible form of videoconferencing, permitting broadcast of multiple video streams from each site, near natural-quality audio and other media. MARCEL members are currently working on improving its performance for the arts.

The MARCEL Online Resource is the web site, the operational tool of the MARCEL network. This 3rd generation portal site (url above) is the place where all MARCEL information is found, where communication between members takes place, where the active newsletter is sent and stored, where any other information deemed useful to Members is posted. The web site is managed technically by the University of Maine in the US and the content governed by 12 institutions in Europe, North and South America acting as MARCEL Managers, a subcommittee of the MARCEL Trust.

**MARCEL**  
 c/o Media@lse  
 LSE  
 Houghton Street  
 London WC2A 2AE  
 United Kingdom  
 44 (0)20 7955 7248