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**COMPUTER BASED AUTHORING - AN ELECTRONIC BOOK VERSION OF  
THE PROSPECTUS OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

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An attempt was made to publish an electronic book version of the Prospectus 1998-2002 of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The authoring tool known as AUTHORWARE PROFESSIONAL was used to develop this application. AUTHORWARE PROFESSIONAL 3.5 version is an icon based object oriented programming tool with facilities for hypertext, animations and multimedia applications. The information given in the printed version of the prospectus was rearranged as pages according to the topics. Each page giving specific piece of information is assigned to an icon. The resulting file from structuring of pages and arranging of information was then packaged to produce an executable file. In packaging, the option of Windows 95 and NT gives a file for users who do not have RunA3W application software. The pages containing required information can be accessed or opened by selecting topics given in the Table of Content which appears after introductory pages. Graphics related to the information in various pages have been included. This electronic book can be stored in a single 3.5" HD floppy disk as a compressed file and can be distributed to users instead of printed version. It helps in reducing the use of resources and in cutting down of printing expenses. In addition, the compressed file can be made available as a down loadable file under the faculty web page.

The electronic book version of the faculty prospectus is a simple presentation of some of the capabilities available with authoring tools. In applications where use of audio, video, animations and interactions can be incorporated into publications. Therefore, this exercise is expected to create awareness for development of computer based material that can be used in education, training, advertising, etc.