



Videoconference on Distance Learning Shares Library Resources throughout Indiana

On Friday, November 17, five representatives from the **Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI) Distance Education/Off-Campus Library Services Task Force** participated in a video conference on **distance learning** with Indiana College Network Learning Center Coordinators.

The **Indiana College Network (ICN)** is a cooperative service of Indiana's colleges and universities. They offer assistance to Indiana residents interested in pursuing a degree via distance learning. The network includes the presence of 59 learning centers throughout Indiana, each of which is staffed by a coordinator.

Learning centers provide access to technology for course-related communications as well as personal assistance to distance learners. As stated at the ICN website, "... learning center coordinators have experience helping distance students conquer their challenges. If they don't know the answer to your questions, they have the resources to find it for you."

Top resources for both coordinators and students are the technologically savvy staff and thousands of online resources in university and college libraries. Video conference participants were able learn about the variety of library services available to distance learners through guided tours of useful web pages. Data sheets outlining major resources and contact information were also provided for future reference. These will be available on the ALI Web site, **<http://ali.bsu.edu>**.

The exchange of information was two-way, with librarians welcoming suggestions from coordinators about ways to improve service for distance learners.

Carol Brunty, Manager of Student Services for ICN, said the presentation was well-received by the coordinators. "Everyone recognizes library resources are important. The quick response made to suggestions was also appreciated. It shows the libraries care about their long-distance students."

Presenting at the conference were

- Ball State University – Suzanne Rice, Assistant Dean for Public Services
- Indiana University – Anne Haynes, Distributed Education Library Services Coordinator
- Indiana Wesleyan University – Jule Kind, Director of Off Campus Library Services
- Ivy Tech – Susan Mannan, Library Director
- University of Southern Indiana – Philip Orr, Distance Learning Librarian

Plans are underway for another presentation in February 2007, and discussions are taking place to create regular contributions from ALI member libraries for the ICN newsletter.