



Membership in ALI Saves Money for the College and University Libraries in Obtaining Databases

The Academic Libraries of Indiana (ALI), a consortium of 73 academic libraries, is a partner in helping its member libraries to achieve savings in subscription costs to academic databases. This past spring, as part of its initiative for eResources, ALI signed an agreement with the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) that will result in ALI member libraries being able to save money when subscribing to selected academic databases.

For the Ball State University Libraries, for example, when we renew our subscription, this agreement will produce immediate savings for the *LexisNexis Academic* databases, a service that includes nearly 5,000 publications spanning business and financial, environmental, legal, medical, and news.

ALI's agreement with SOLINET brings 200 existing product offerings and 50 publisher and vendor relationships to the partnership, and SOLINET will also undertake specific negotiations on behalf of ALI and its member libraries as needed.

The University Libraries anticipate that this is only the beginning of other favorable deals to come from being an ALI member. According to an ALI Resource Advisory Committee report, "... this relationship will offer ALI member libraries a broader range of electronic resources through a single agent, at optimum pricing, with management information available to each ALI member library for resources that they have acquired."

This initiative between ALI and SOLINET represents a significant development in cooperation among ALI libraries to increase the range of resources provided to the students, faculty, and communities that they serve while making the most of available fiscal resources. According to Dan N. Bowell, Chair of ALI's Database Licensing Task Force and University Librarian at Taylor University's Zondervan Library, "It provides a strong complement to the resource sharing, including direct borrowing that exists among ALI libraries."

[Submitted by Hilde M. Calvert, Ball State University Libraries' Head of Collections Development and member of the ALI Database Licensing Task Force, HCalvert@bsu.edu, June 16, 2008.]