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An Overview of Distance Learning at Illinois Colleges and Universities

This study identifies distance learning programs and related library services among members of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). There are 153 institutions in CARLI, 146 of which are post-secondary institutions and comprised the population for this study. Distance learning programs were identified by first consulting two major online resources: U.S. News & World Report Online Education Directory* and Peterson's Guide to Online Degrees and Distance Education Programs.** Remaining distance learning programs were discovered by separately exploring institutional Web sites. Library services for distance learning were identified by exploring each institution's library homepage and other online resources at the college/university that are aimed specifically at distance learners.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Sixty percent (88 institutions) of CARLI post-secondary institutions offer some form of distance learning.

Community colleges comprise the largest percent of CARLI institutions offering distance learning. Many of these institutions offer full online programs of study for associate degrees as well as certificates.

All five of the research universities in CARLI that offer distance learning programs offer online degree programs.

As most of the distance learning programs required enrollment and registration at the host institution, access to library online resources such as data bases and journals was assumed.

In general, library services for distance learning programs are not well articulated. Only 20 percent of the institutions offering distance learning provide easily discoverable library informational resources aimed specifically at distance learners.

A relatively small number of libraries (9) offer book delivery to the student's home, mainly for students residing outside of Illinois. In general, students pay return shipping. Students residing in Illinois and attending an I-Share institution are instructed to use their nearest I-Share library for picking up books ordered via interlibrary loan.

Distance Learning at Illinois Colleges and Universities*

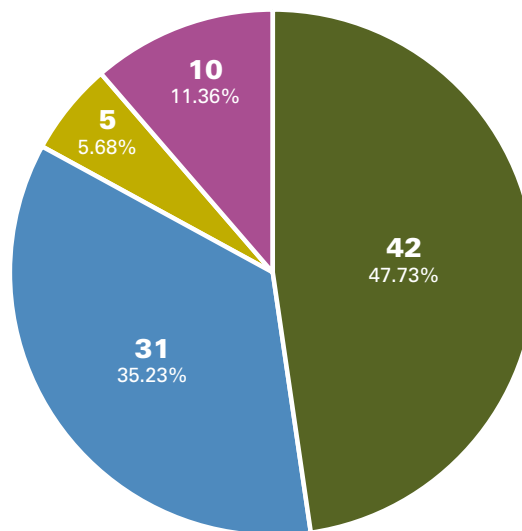
	Number of Institutions	Percent of CARLI Academic Institutions (N=146)
Distance Learning Not Offered	58	40%
Offer Distance Learning Programs	88	60%
Total	146	100%

*Includes all post-secondary institutions (community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and specialty institutions) with distance learning programs in the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). Distance learning includes degree and non-degree programs.

Library Resources at CARLI Institutions with Distance Learning Programs (N=88)

	Number of Institutions
Online Guides for Distance Learners (e.g., Web page/LibGuides)	18 (20%)
Remote Access to Electronic Resources	88 (100%)
Book Delivery to Student's Home	9 (10%)

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Type of Institution

- Community Colleges
- Colleges/Universities
- Research Universities
- Specialty Institutions

*<http://www.usnews.com/sections/education/online-education/index.html>

**<http://www.petersons.com/distancelearning/>

