Dear Library Resource and Distant Learning Committee,

Since we were unable to meet due to the cancellation of the April ODIN Advisory Council meeting, I am writing to share with you some of the information I was planning to present at that time. Minutes of the meetings held so far can be found at: http://webcat.odin.nodak.edu/staff/LRDLC.html

I will start with a brief history of the committee. In the fall of 2000, Dennis Page asked me to chair a committee whose mission is to plan library services for a two-year online associate in arts degree that is slated to begin in the fall of 2001. This degree is a collaborative effort of the following academic institutions:

Williston State College  
Bismarck State College  
Lake Region State College  
North Dakota State College of Science  
Minot State University- Bottineau  
Dickinson State University  
Mayville State University  
Minot State University

On October 2, 2000, I invited anyone who was interested to attend a planning meeting for such a committee. A group of librarians from around the state who expressed interest in such a committee met again on December 8, 2000. Issues identified at these two meetings included:

1. The need to decide who will issue cards and deliver materials to the students in the program
2. The importance of establishing a unified web presence for library services for the program
3. The need for a mechanism for delivering course materials to the students electronically.

Here is where we are with regard to each of these issues:

1. The need to decide who will issue cards and deliver materials to the students in the program

Since each student will select a “home campus” from among the 5 2-year institutions, we decided that the library at a student’s home campus would issue the card and deliver the materials. Libraries that are not open in the summer have been paired up with a “mentor library” who will provide services to students during times when the home campus is closed. The mentor relationships are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Campus</th>
<th>Mentor Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSU-Bottineau</td>
<td>Minot State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Region State College</td>
<td>North Dakota State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williston State College</td>
<td>Dickinson State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The importance of establishing a unified web presence for library services for the online program.

At the December meeting we formed a subcommittee to design a web page for the program. This subcommittee includes Kathy Enger and W.L. Gardner from NDSU, Barb Knight from the Harley French Library, Traci Juhala from Bismarck State College, Tony Stukel from the ODIN office, Jan Wysocki from MSU-Bottineau, and Jane la Plante.

The web page that W.L. Gardner has coded for us can be found at:
http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndus/

The group also discussed the need for an online tutorial for students in the online program. Char Myhre from NDSU is working on a WebPals tutorial that she is willing to share with us.

3. The need for a mechanism for delivering course materials to the students electronically.

Three of the institutions involved in the program are currently using ERes, an electronic reserve program produced by a company named Docutek. Therefore, the committee expressed interest in learning more about this program. Rodney Salazar of Docutek demonstrated ERes at the December 8th meeting of the Library Resources and Distant Learning committee. Mr. Salazar also demonstrated ERes to North Dakota University System directors via IVN on March 29. Tony Stukel is currently gathering information from the directors about their interest in the ERes product.

I hope you will take the time to look at the web page and the meeting minutes, and that you will let me know if you have any comments, suggestions, etc. I do not plan to schedule a meeting at this time unless I hear from you that it is necessary.