Outsourced library services included in “Best Practices”
The “best practices” in distance education recently proposed by the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions lists “library-related services” among its “current examples of consortial and contractual relationships.” Services that must be available for students “may include . . . library resources appropriate to the program, including, reference and research assistance; remote access to databases, online journals and full-text resources; document delivery services; library user and information literacy instruction, reserve materials; and institutional agreements with local libraries.”


Electronic Ink
Electronic ink is a dark liquid dye containing white microcapsules, which can be controlled by an electric field. “To form an E Ink electronic display, the ink is printed onto a sheet of plastic film that is laminated to a layer of circuitry.” According to Electronic Ink Corporation, E Ink “retains the superior viewing characteristics of paper, including high contrast, wide viewing angle and bright paper-white background. . . . Electronic ink can be printed on almost any surface, from plastic to metal to paper. And it can be coated over large areas cheaply.”


La Biblioteque Nationale’s virtual library
The French national library has converted 87,000 books in its collection to a digital format and claims to have “the largest virtual library in the world.”


E-mail most popular Internet service
A transaction log analysis of Internet use in a British Columbia public library found 41% of sites accessed were e-mail service providers. In contrast, library and information services sites accounted for only 1% of the usage.


Median salaries for library administrators at all academic institutions currently range from $43,080 for acquisitions librarians to $63,228 for directors of library services. The median for directors at doctoral institutions is $111,999.


Internet use to triple by 2005
A market research report by eTForecasts predicts the number of Internet users worldwide will reach 1.17 billion by the end of 2005; 62% will be using wireless devices.


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