Distributed/E-Learning Communities of Practice:
An Open Discussion

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Key issues
- Consistent data-gathering on e-learning use
- E-learners from in-state and out-of-state (academic environments)
- E-learners from in-state and out-of-state (proprietary environments)
- Difficulties in supporting e-learning (expectation of seamless delivery) for academic libraries
- Difficulties in supporting e-learning for public libraries
- The types of e-learning including disciplines; formats, delivery, etc.

Needs
- Clearly defined expectations of e-learning students
- Clearly defined expectations of e-learning faculty
- Outline of “what’s going on in Texas”
- Outline of e-learning support available on the general web
- Content on what public libraries can do and should do to support e-learning
- Training for public libraries on e-learning

Interest Group support
- “State of state” in Texas for both academic and public libraries
- Interpretation of e-learning standards for Texas library services
- Guidelines for Texas public libraries serving e-learning patrons
- Guidelines for Texas academic libraries with e-learning patrons
- Data gathering on e-learning support best practices

In general for academic libraries:
- The supervision of e-learning services must be identified and defined.
- A MLS should be in charge of services delivered and this person should hire, supervise, and train the staff at all appropriate locations.
- E-learning responsibilities should be reflected on job descriptions and evaluations.
- Institutional dollars should be available for reimbursing travel.
- There should be consistent marketing of “remote” services to the students, faculty and staff.
- E-learning support should be articulated on the library’s website and on any college sites advertising or offering e-learning.
- Information literacy in on-campus classes must be offered for the same e-learning classes.
- If possible, attention to e-learning faculty and students should be “personalized.”
- Area librarians should be approached and given an overview of what you provide and content that area librarians can use to assist “your” e-learning students as patrons in public librarians.