INN-Reach
Distance Learning
Development Proposal

May 2000

Introduction

INN-Reach interlibrary circulation currently supports the lending of materials belonging to one library to patrons of another library. Using patron-initiated requesting the patron may choose between one or more pickup locations supported by their own library system. With video instruction and distance learning courses becoming more prevalent, patrons need a wider range of convenient pickup locations. Pickup locations convenient to the patron often are associated with libraries which are not involved with the transaction, i.e. the library system houses neither the patron record nor item record.

With the Distance Learning module, Innovative Interfaces' INN-Reach software will support the ability for patrons to pickup materials at any circulation station within the same INN-Reach system.

Summary of Features; Local Requirements

- Patrons may request an item remotely and have it delivered to any pickup location within the INN-Reach system that supports Distance Learning. The patron will be offered additional selections of pickup locations. These additional selections will be available via the Web OPAC.

- The Distance Learning module expands the INN-Reach data messages to include information about a third local system and to process messages from that system. In the following documentation, these three local systems and their roles will be referred to as the following:
  - Patron Site: the local system where the patron is registered and where the patron record resides.
  - Owning Site: the local system that owns the material and where the item record resides.
  - Delivery Site: the local system that acts as a remote agent on behalf of the other systems and performs the circulation functions with the patron.

- All Distance Learning transmissions will be routed through the INN-Reach central system as is currently done with INN-Reach circulation transactions.

- Software at the Delivery Site will consist of a suite of programs which permit circulation staff to process the remote patron/remote item combination. These programs include:
  - Receipt of item from owning site
  - Checkout to patron
  - Checkin from patron
  - Return Unwanted Items

- These new programs will include the transmission of messages from the Delivery Site to the Patron Site with appropriate updating of the virtual item.

- These new programs will be executed through the Millennium Circulation module. Circulation stations at the Delivery Site used for distance learning must be workstations running Millennium Circulation.

- Distance Learning pickup locations will be separately maintained in the central table of pickup locations, enabling the pickup sites to be the same as or a subset of the current pickup locations.

- If a local system has not implemented Millennium Circulation, none of their pickup locations will be offered under the Distance Learning choices available to patrons. However, their own patrons will be able to take advantage of the Distance Learning module as these patrons can select distance learning pickup locations supported by other local systems. Not all local sites will be required to have Millennium Circulation nor to have implemented Millennium Circulation in order to implement the functionality within an INN-Reach system.