ICDL – Online Database of the International Center for Distance Learning

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Description

The International Centre for Distance Learning (ICDL) is a documentation centre based on the campus of the Open University in the United Kingdom, specializing in collecting and disseminating information on distance education worldwide. With a grant from the British Government's Overseas Development Administration, ICDL has now developed a comprehensive computerized database on distance education for the Commonwealth of Learning.

The database contains information on :

- Distance-taught programmes and courses in the Commonwealth (22,000+)
- Distance teaching institutions worldwide (600+)
- Literature of distance education worldwide (4500+ entries)

Some of the literature entries contain full text of papers as well as bibliographic details and abstracts.

Network Access

The database can be accessed from the Internet using Telnet:

Telnet to acsvax.open.ac.uk
(137.108.48.127 or 137.108.48.8 or 137.108.48.9)
Username: ICDL

Further progress requires a subscriber account code and password, but potential users are invited to leave details for contact by logging in with the account code NEW, see below.

Who Can Use the Database

The database changed from open access, during its development stage, to subscribers only on 1st September 1992. Further information on subscription charges (initially set at 200 pounds for 1992 through 1993) can be obtained by logging in with the Account code NEW and leaving email and/or postal address on the facility provided. Developing country users may be given free access or may obtain a free copy of the CD-ROM version.

Miscellaneous

The database is also available on CD_ROM. ICDL also publishes a quarterly hard copy accessions list, which gives details of literature in distance education received in ICDL. This list is available by writing to ICDL. ICDL would like to hear about new literature and from institutions involved in distance teaching. General enquiries may be sent to the email address quoted above.