The «BacVert» or «Blue Box» - A Knowledge Recycling Bin for Students
Céline Desjardins, Centre de recherche LICEF, Canada; Éfoé Wallace, Centre de recherche LICEF, Canada; Claude Ricciardi-Rigault, Centre de recherche LICEF, Canada
While it has become common to provide students with a list of documents to peruse on the Internet, information gathering, net-surfing and annotation all have an exploratory, individual and work-in-progress quality. Sharing insights gained through these activities, especially in distance education, is complicated and requires highly structured settings. The INF9002 «BacVert» web-based dispositif at Télé-université supports such sharing. The natural language parsing performed by Nomino provides flexible automatic structuration, both of the core Internet material proposed by the teacher to which the students gradually add their findings, and of the comments about these documents produced by the students. By allowing a group of students to constitute an evolutive information base, to comment on it and to compare notes, the INF9002 «BacVert» constitutes a step towards tackling the complexity and heterogeneity of the information environment, while supporting exchanges among peers about the material at hand.

Building Global Information Communities: the University of Iowa Center for Electronic Resources in African Studies (CERAS)
Barbara Dewey, University of Iowa Libraries, USA
This poster session provides a case study of the issues and lessons learned regarding development of the University of Iowa’s Center for Electronic Resources in African Studies (CERAS) (http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/ceras/). The Center is a “virtual” space for creating, disseminating, and accessing scholarly electronic resources in text, multimedia, and interactive format, and a “virtual” place for further development of electronic resources (textual and multimedia-based) pertaining to Africa created by scholars from the United States as well as from Africa and other parts of the world (http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/ceras/). CERAS is part of the University Libraries’ Scholarly Digital Resources Center supporting students and faculty engaged in African Studies research and teaching at the University of Iowa, and scholars nationally and internationally. CERAS is also a venue for U.S. and African scholars for creating and disseminating African Studies scholarship and information resources in electronic format. Several CERAS initiatives have focused on image creation, particularly in the field of African art, a strength at the University of Iowa. CERAS will serve as a venue for digitizing projects related to Africana scholarship (i.e. museum collections, selected non-copyrighted collections, archival materials, and documents). Other goals include bringing high quality African Studies scholarly electronic collections and web sites currently in existence into a user-friendly digital library web page; providing a venue for “publishing” original materials, including pre-prints, (articles, books, conference proceedings) as well as creating significant thematic textual and multimedia collections of materials in electronic format; and developing an electronic international community of Africana scholars where dialogue about issues, research, and projects can take place. This latter feature is intended to provide a broader opportunity for Africana scholars to post drafts of research papers and projects for critique and discussion by other Africanists from around the world. The University of Iowa Libraries is seeking collaborative projects and partnerships with institutions and Africana scholars from around the world.

Introducing a Distance Learning version of a Postgraduate Program on Networking in Argentina
Dean Javier Díaz, University of La Plata, Argentine; María Alejandra Osorio, University of La Plata, Argentine; Ana Paola Amadeo, University of La Plata, Argentine
The great popularity of the Internet and the widespread use of the World Wide Web are promoting a new methodology for distance learning. The main advantage of the Internet based courses is possibility to promote a bi-directional communication between the students and the professor and to highly, motivate the student due to an adequate feedback. This poster describe the introduction of Internet tools (such as www, e-mail, IRC, FTP, mailing list) in the distance learning postgraduate program of the ‘Magister de Redes’ (http://www.linti.unlp.edu.ar/master) of the UNLP. The ongoing experience was successful due to certain facts that are stated in the poster which also mentions some drawbacks and the strategy for overcoming them. The distance-learning version of the program started in 1998 as way to reduce the obstacles for he students (professionals from the engineering and the computer science field in the networking area), mainly the traveling expenses and the time it takes due the large geography of our country and the long distances.

The Bones Of The Skull: Creating Anatomical Models With Quicktime Vr
Marilyn Dispensa, The University of Iowa, USA; Jim Duncan, The University of Iowa, USA; Jerry Moon, The University of Iowa, USA
This electronic demonstration will provide an overview of QuickTime Virtual Reality (QTVR) and its utility in the development of virtual anatomical models which can be used alone or integrated into computer-based-learning (CBL) software. The Bones of the Skull: A 3-D Learning Tool is a CD-ROM-based module designed to help