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INNOVATIONS IN COLLEGE COUNSELING CENTERS:
THE COUNSELING CENTER WEB

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I'd like to share with you the Counseling Center Web. This project is not, however, about a physical thing — it is, rather, a concept. And it is a work very much in progress. The purpose of this Counseling Center Web is to capitalize on the inherent nature of the internet: interconnection. To ignore this nature we risk duplicating efforts, recreating the wheel... we miss the point of the internet: collaboration, sharing, and building on each others' strengths.

The Counseling Center Web, then, is about the *concept* of interconnection across geographical distances, and can be illustrated by several projects I coordinate:

1. **The Counseling Center Self-Help Home Page**, based at the University at Buffalo's Counseling Center, contains:
 - information about our center.
 - self help material (e.g. psychoeducational brochures)
 - info about training opportunities
 - info for MH professionals

First this was solely material we created...in isolation.

Today, however, it contains links to resources at many other counseling centers (with their permission) and receives up to 1,000 hits or more a month.

2. Several years ago I developed an **On-Line Directory Of Counseling Centers** that have an internet presence. From this directory, you can link directly to over 90 counseling center home pages, as well as learn about counseling center e-mail listserves and other counseling center related resources. This has been an extremely useful resource for

counseling center's thinking about going on-line and seeing how their colleagues did it — learning from each other.

3. There are, of course, other technologies possible on the internet, most popular being e-mail. As a means of helping my fellow NYS colleagues stay networked, I set up a **Regional Listserve For Counseling Center Professionals** in upstate New York—an e-mail distribution list (sort of a bulletin board) to which members can post and respond to messages.
4. Finally, and most recently, Wendy Settle of the University of Notre Dame and I have been working on setting up a **Counseling Center Village Page**—something that will bring together in one web page all of these different resources and will include materials from counseling centers *all over* such as:

- Treatment materials, manuals
- On-line document bank --- including Bob Hsiung's (University of Chicago) most excellent on-line Virtual Pamphlet Collection.
- Promotional material
- Generic brochures to be customized by individual schools --- essentially a psychological educational clearing-house
- Research support
- Staff development, training materials --- including Gail Hackett's (Arizona State University) on-line internship listing

We've scheduled a commission VII interest group to pursue these ideas for this afternoon.

The explosion of activity on the internet is exciting and we, as professionals, have an opportunity here to provide leadership and guidance in how the use of this technology develops.

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