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**Abstract**

The author briefly describes the activity of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in support of asynchronous learning networks (ALNs) in universities, an activity that goes back to 1992. These networks can provide the essentials of the traditional learning experience electronically, delivering the same ultimate result at roughly the same cost as traditional classroom delivery. However, asynchronous learning networks can assemble a diversity of students and teaching staffs and offer a flexibility of delivery and of outreach that permit a vast extension of educational possibilities. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)