# 2005 SLIS Doctoral Student Forum
# A Follow-Up Study of Indiana's Community Networking Movement

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We present a research design that follows up on Rosenbaum and Gregson's (1998) study of 28 community networks geographically-based in Indiana and funded by the state. In addition to collecting data for comparison with the original data, we plan to extend the research in light of the literature in Community Informatics (Bishop and Bertram, 2005, Day and Schuler, 2004), social capital (Bourdieu, 1986, Coleman, 1988, Putnam, 2000), sustainability, and computerization movements. Our research is designed to address the following questions: What is the state of community networks in Indiana as compared to 1997? How can the emerging field of Community Informatics address sustainability issues facing community networks? How have inter-organizational and interpersonal relationships affected the long-term success or failure of Indiana's community networks? In particular, how important is the role of a community network "champion"?

This will primarily be a qualitative study involving interviews of community network board presidents, board members, and staff – both past and present. Additionally, content analysis of community network web sites will be conducted. We plan to pursue an "action agenda" where our research is informed by theoretical and empirical questions potentially relevant to social action or social policy (Alford, 1998).

## References

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