

The Digital Policy Institute

Ball State University
www.bsu.edu/digitalpolicy



Annual Report 2009-2010

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- Cecil E. Bohanon, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, MCoB
- Stuart N. Brotman, J.D., Distinguished Visiting Professor of Emerging Media, CICS
- Dom Caristi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Telecommunications & Fulbright Scholar
- Fritz Dolak, Ph.D., Copyright and Intellectual Property Manager, University Libraries
- Jay Gillette, Ph.D., Professor of Information and Communication Sciences, CICS
- Frank Groom, Ph.D., Professor of Information and Communication Sciences, CICS
- Michael Hanley, M.A., Assistant Professor of Journalism
- Michael J. Hicks, Ph.D., Director, Center for Business and Economic Research, MCoB
- Stephan Jones, Ph.D., Director of Center for Information & Communication Sciences, CICS
- James M. Nyce, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Anthropology
- Alan Richardson, Ph.D., Professor of Telecommunications (Emeritus)
- Barry D. Umansky, J.D., Professor of Telecommunications
- Robert E. Yadon, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Applied Research Institute, CICS



Mission

The mission of the DPI is to foster a mutually beneficial relationship among faculty of various disciplines across the Ball State University campus by:

1. Promoting the active participation and involvement of BSU faculty in public policy research related to the information age;
2. Serving as a vehicle to support faculty research in the areas of law, regulation, economics and technology as they relate to public policy issues of local, state, national and international interest;
3. Establishing a collegial environment that will foster critical thinking across disciplines on national and international public policy issues; and
4. Promoting student involvement and immersion in timely public policy research questions at the graduate and undergraduate levels across various disciplines. In fulfilling this mission, the Institute will insure that all of its efforts and activities are consistent with the university's mission, values, strategic objectives, policies, and procedures.

Purpose

The Digital Policy Institute serves the 21st century as an interdisciplinary association for BSU faculty and students who have a collective research interest in digital media.

These digital interests include the structure of, and competition within, electronic communications industries and further includes the public policy issues of digital creation, storage, transmission, reception, consumption, and legal intellectual property protection of digital information including:

- Written text
- Voice
- Data
- Still images
- Video
- Computer graphics

The DPI is a vehicle for faculty research that coalesces around the arenas of law, regulation, economics, intellectual property, and technology as these relate to public policy issues of local, state, national and international interests.

The DPI is a neutral entity on digital media issues allowing it to provide fair and balanced presentations from all sides of any given issue. The DPI's neutrality allows society and its governing bodies to make educated decisions on relevant, digital issues.

Recent Projects

Governor Mitch Daniels's State of the State message on January 15, 2008, twice mentioned telecommunications reform. His last remark on reform was:

"When knowledgeable Americans think of telecommunications reform, they think of Indiana."

The DPI was instrumental in providing timely and relevant information for the passage of reform legislation (HEA 1279) through objective analysis of Indiana's telecommunications landscape. The key submission of the DPI was a paper provided to the Indiana General Assembly dated February 14, 2006, entitled, "The Economic Impact of Telecom Reform in Indiana: 2006."

In 2008, the DPI completed a follow-up study, "An Interim Report on the Economic Impact of Telecommunications Reform in Indiana". Several bullet points taken from the Executive Summary of this report were submitted to Governor Daniels for his State-of-the-State address on 01-11-08. These include:

- New Wireline Deployments – DSL
- Improved Workforce Opportunities
- New Capital Expenditures - Infrastructure
- Indiana Remains a Leader in Telecom Reform Legislation
- Indiana is a Leader in Broadband Wireless Deployment
- New Competition for Video Impacts Price for Hoosiers

This Interim Report on HEA 1279 was completed on February 15, 2008 and was released in Indianapolis at a joint press conference for dissemination to the Indiana General Assembly.

DPI fellows also weighed in on the economic stimulus benefits of deploying next-generation broadband systems in a proposal dated January 15, 2009, endorsed by OPASTCO, and hand delivered in Washington, D.C. to the Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader.

DPI has also been instrumental in supporting deregulation in surrounding states, including Michigan and Missouri. In addition, a new study entitled, "**The Evolution of Telecom and the Ohio Template for Reform: 2009**" was completed in April 2009, and released in October of 2009.

DPI fellows also provided comments to the Federal Communications Commission. Comments entitled, "**Suggestions for Further Study by the Digital Policy Institute on Broadband Study Conducted by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society**" were submitted on November 16, 2009.

Spotlight on DPI

December 16, 2005. DPI/IURC Regulatory Retreat: "Migration to Broadband: The Changing Indiana Landscape," Alumni Center.

December 2005. Rhonda Russell and Jay Gillette, "Understanding E-Government and E-Democracy through MAPS: Management, Applications, Policy, Services." *Annual Review of Communications*. Vol. 58. Chicago: International Engineering Consortium.

January 23, 2006. Alan Richardson, "No wonder cable companies oppose this bill," *Muncie Star-Press*.

January 24, 2007. Jay Gillette, "U. S. Cities Don't Make the Intelligence Cut: Pac-Rim Telecom Think Tank Names the Cities that Do." *Network World*.

January 26, 2006. "Looking Clearly Through the Telecommunications Fog of War," Barry D. Umansky, *Ball State Daily News*.

February 1, 2006. Robert E. Yadon, "Telecom reform in the states: Will Indiana be in the race?" *Evansville Courier Press*.

February 14, 2006. "The Economic Impact of Telecom Reform in Indiana: 2006," Patrick M. Barkey, Cecil E. Bohanon, Dom Caristi, Zoran Grabovac, David J. McClelland, Barry D. Umansky, Robert E. Yadon. Ball State University, Digital Policy Institute.

May 1, 2006. "Hoosier Telecom Reform Leads Nation," Sam Staley, *The Heartland Institute*.

May 19, 2006. Michigan White Paper: "The Economic Impact of Video Franchising and Broadband Investment in Michigan: 2006," Barry L. Litman, Michigan State University, Robert E. Yadon, Ball State University.

May 2006. "MSU research finds Michigan consumers could save millions under franchise reform bill," Michigan State University, news release.

October 1, 2006. Barry Umansky quoted in a civil lawsuit being brought against Radio One, Barry Umansky, *Indianapolis Business Journal*.

March 2007. Robert E. Yadon and Jay Gillette, "The M-Dimensional Dynamics of Telecommunications Policy: A Best-Practices Approach to Comprehension through Research Newsletters." *International Telecommunications Education and Research Association (ITERA) Conference Proceedings*.

May 23, 2007. Jay Gillette, "Waterloo Named Intelligent Community of the Year in USA Shutout." *Network World*.

October 3, 2007. Dom Caristi and Alan Richardson, "Retransmission Consent, Must Carry and the Public: Current economic and regulatory realities of multichannel video providers," White Paper commissioned by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association.

October 9, 2007. Fritz Dolak, radio interview on file sharing, the DMCA, and the Home Recording Act of 1992, *WIBC-AM*, Indianapolis.

January 13, 2008. Robert Yadon quoted in the article, "Competition keeping telecom companies busy: Deregulation of the industry was good for consumers, expert says," by Keith Roysdon, *Muncie Star Press*.

January 17, 2008. Jay Gillette, "U.S. cities make intelligent list in 2008, but national policy still 'pathetic': Pacific meeting spotlights booming video trends, intelligent communities." *Network World*.

February 15, 2008, "An Interim Report on the Economic Impact of Telecommunications Reform in Indiana," Ball State University, Digital Policy Institute.

February 23, 2008. *IndyStar.com*. "Report: T-com industry reform creating new jobs."

February 25, 2008. *Multichannel News*. Ball State Study Sees Positive Effects From Indiana Telecom Bill, Finding Disputed by Cable Incumbents.

February 26, 2008. *Inside Indiana Business*. Ball State Study Links Job Creation to Telecom Deregulation.

March 2, 2008. Cecil Bohanon, "Deregulation opens economic doors," *Indianapolis Star*.

March 2, 2008. Michael Hicks, "Indiana in the lead on telecom reform," *Muncie Star Press*.

March 2, 2008. Barry Umansky interviewed by *Inside Indiana Business*.

March 6, 2008. Michael Hanley. "Indiana in the Fast Lane of Broadband Growth," *Inside Indiana Business*.

March 10, 2008. Fritz Dolak. "Illegal downloads and file-sharing low at Ball State thanks to proactive approach," *BSU Newscenter*.

March 11, 2008. Alan Richardson. "Indiana's new video marketplace," *Muncie Star Press*.

May 19, 2008. Jay Gillette, "Korea's Gangnam District of Seoul wins 2008 "Intelligent Community of the Year," *Network World*.

Summer 2008, Robert Yadon and Michael Hanley, "The Real Story Behind Telecom Reform," *Indiana Policy Review Journal*.

October 28, 2008. Jay Gillette, "Global Forum highlights digital trust, international broadband competition," *Network World*.

January 14, 2009. "Ball State U. Lobbies Obama for Broadband Plan to Stimulate Economy," *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

January 23, 2009. Jay Gillette, "Global telecom is bright spot amid tech industry woes," *Network World*.

March 2009. Dom Caristi, Alan Richardson and Addison Del Rio, "The Truth About Cable Rates." Foundation for Rural Service.

May 6-9, 2009. Dom Caristi, "New Media Regulation for a New Media World." New Media and Information Conference, Athens, Greece.

May 14, 2009. Michael Hanley, "Verizon deal extends Frontier's reach into rural America," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*.

May 18, 2009. Steve Jones, panelist, OTA Forum on Ohio Regulatory Reform. Cleveland, OH.

May 18, 2009. Jay Gillette, "Stockholm wins broadband award: Swedish city named 'Intelligent Community of the Year' for muni-fiber network," *Network World*.

October 27, 2009. Jay Gillette, "Global Forum sees Information Technology Driving Recovery and Boosting Democracy," *Network World*.

October 2009. Steve Jones, "Wireless Consumers Benefit from Competition," *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*.

2009 Academic Institution of the Year. Awarded to Ball State University by the Mobile Marketing Association. Nomination included the Digital Policy Institute and was submitted by Michael Hanley as director of the Institute for Mobile Media Research.

DPI Sponsorships

Interdisciplinary, learning opportunities and fostering a research culture for graduate and undergraduate students through assistantships and sponsored research stipends since 2004 have been awarded to:

- Geoff Gaylor (CICS)
- Chi-Hsun Chiu (TCOM)
- Dave McClelland (CICS)
- Zoran Grabovac (ECON)
- Ryan Wolfgang (CICS)
- Addison Del Rio (CICS)
- Jason Jankowski (TCOM)
- C.J. Holmes (CICS)

DPI grants have been awarded in support of the following conferences, seminars or individuals:

- 2006 *Copyright Challenges and Opportunities*, BSU Copyright Conference
- 2008 *Copyright in Oz*, BSU Copyright Conference
- 2008 DPI Policy Conference
- 2009 *Star E-Wars*, BSU Copyright Conference
- 2009 Women Working in Technology Conference
- 2010 *One Ring to Rule Them All*, BSU Copyright Conference
- 2010 Stuart N. Brotman, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Emerging Media

DPI Impact and Influence

National, collaborative relationships:

- Michigan State University
- Case Western Reserve University
- AT&T
- Verizon
- Embarq
- Indiana Telecommunications Association (ITA)
- Ohio Telecom Association (OTA)
- Technology for Ohio's Tomorrow (TOT)
- The Brookings Institution
- National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA)
- Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO)

State of Indiana Outreach and Collaborative Relationships

- By means of the DPI's Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission Retreat: "Migration to Broadband: The Changing Indiana Landscape," in December 2005, a non-partisan, neutral dialogue assisted in outlining the need for telecommunications reform in Indiana. Through this retreat, several positive relationships were made at the state level.
- Testimony before the Indiana House and Senate on Telecom legislation.

DPI Future Plans and Objectives

Topics for further investigation, research, and collaborative outreach include:

- Providing more immersive opportunities by sponsoring a student paper competition for publication through the DPI as well as a cash prize award
- Net neutrality, privacy and telecom reform
- Assisting DPI members to publish
- Establishing an online Digital Policy Institute Journal with a Library of Congress ISSN
- Sponsoring future Ball State University policy conferences
- Legal seminar in Indianapolis (March 2010)

Ball State University Strategic Plan

The DPI with its outflow of expertise through conferences, publications, and various State of Indiana appointed and elected officials, contributes to the strategic information initiatives of the University. As President, Dr. Jo Ann M. Gora, recently observed, "... [a] new strategic planning process ... will increase the momentum the university has generated and will set a course by which the university can become truly distinctive." The DPI contributes to the distinctiveness of Ball State University.

DPI Website:

DPI Homepage, total hits for 2009: 43,754!
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