Abstract
Despite the scepticism that existed in previous years about its viability, distance education now occupies a central position in the education mainstream. Nevertheless, this development has been accompanied by a parallel growth in confusion about the application of methodologies and forms of institutional organization. This article centers on the diverse organizational possibilities for different institutional models of distance education. Our analysis deals with the possibilities of a type of "reticular organization" for institutions based on network communications via the Internet. We examine diverse forms of organization and discuss the implications for institutions that follow a model based on the structural properties of the networks.

Keywords
Distance education, higher education, management, network organization, internet, e-learning.