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(tēl'ī-kə-myōō nī-kā' shən)

n.

1. The science and technology of communication at a distance by electronic transmission of impulses, as by telegraph, cable, telephone, radio, or television. Often used in the plural with a singular verb: *Telecommunications is an important area of professional growth.*

2. The electronic systems used in transmitting messages, as by telegraph, cable, telephone, radio, or television. Often used in the plural with a plural verb: *Telecommunications were disrupted by the brownout.*

3. A message so transmitted.

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telecommunication

[.telikə,mju:nī'keɪʃən]

n

(Electronics & Computer Science / Telecommunications) the telegraphic or telephonic communication of audio, video, or digital information over a distance by means of radio waves, optical signals, etc., or along a transmission line

Collins English Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

telecommunication

(tēl'ī-kə-myōō nī-kā' shən)

The science and technology of sending and receiving information such as sound, visual images, or computer data over long distances through the use of electrical, radio, or light signals, using electronic devices to encode the information as signals and to decode the signals as information.

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Any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, or information of any nature by wire, radio, visual, or other electromagnetic systems.

Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. US Department of Defense 2005.

Thesaurus

Legend: ||Synonyms||Related Words||Antonyms

Noun 1. telecommunication - (often plural) systems used in transmitting messages over a distance electronically

telecom

sampling - measurement at regular intervals of the amplitude of a varying waveform (in order to convert it to digital form)

electronic converter - (telecommunication) converter for converting a signal from one frequency to another

loop gain - (telecommunication) the gain of a feedback amplifier or system as a function of how much output is fed back to the input; "if the loop gain is too great the system may go into oscillation"

telecommunication - (often plural) the branch of electrical engineering concerned with the technology of electronic communication at a distance

medium - a means or instrumentality for storing or communicating information

telephony, telephone - transmitting speech at a distance

telegraphy - communicating at a distance by electric transmission over wire


wireless - transmission by radio waves

broadcasting - taking part in a radio or tv program

multiplex - communicates two or more signals over a common channel

plural, plural form - the form of a word that is used to denote more than one

sunrise industry - a new industry that is expanding rapidly (especially telecommunications or



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electronics)

sampling rate - (telecommunication) the frequency of sampling per unit time

Nyquist rate - (telecommunication) the lowest sampling rate that will permit accurate reconstruction of a sampled analog signal

sampling frequency - (telecommunication) the frequency of sampling a continuously varying signal

Nyquist frequency - (telecommunication) twice the maximum frequency occurring in the transmitted signal

call - send a message or attempt to reach someone by radio, phone, etc.; make a signal in order to transmit a message; "Hawaii is calling!"; "A transmitter in Samoa was heard calling"

2. **telecommunication** - (often plural) the branch of electrical engineering concerned with the technology of electronic communication at a distance

EE, electrical engineering - the branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication

telecom, telecommunication - (often plural) systems used in transmitting messages over a distance electronically

plural, plural form - the form of a word that is used to denote more than one

ECC, error correction code - (telecommunication) a coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors

quantise, quantize - approximate (a signal varying continuously in amplitude) by one whose amplitude is restricted to a prescribed set of discrete values

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Muscat, Oct 3 (ONA)— Mohammed bin Nassir al Khusaibi, Secretary General of the National Economy Ministry and Chairman of the **Telecommunications** Regulatory Authority (TRA) left here today for Switzerland leading the Sultanate's delegation to the World **Telecommunications** Day organized by the International **Telecommunication** Union (ITU) in Geneva during October 5 th -9 th to mark the World **Telecommunication** Day.

*Sultanate takes part at the World Telecommunication Day by Oman News Agency*

Byline: Times News Service MUSCAT Eoe1/4" The participation of **Telecommunications** Regulatory Authority (TRA) at Salalah Tourism Festival 2009 has been a great success with the large turnout of visitors at its stall every day.

*Visitors throng TRA stall in Salalah by Times of Oman (Muscat, Oman)*

MANAMA: The **Telecommunications** Regulatory Authority (TRA) has issued for a public consultation draft on the Consumer Protection Guidelines.

*TRA issues draft guidelines by Gulf Daily News (Manama, Bahrain)*

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### tel-e-com-mu-ni-ca-tions [tel-i-kuh-myoo-ni-key-shuhnz]

[Show IPA](#)**noun**

1. Sometimes, **telecommunication**. ( *used with a singular verb* ) the transmission of information, as words, sounds, or images, usually over great distances, in the form of electromagnetic signals, as by telegraph, telephone, radio, or television.
2. Sometimes, **telecommunication**. ( *used with a singular verb* ) the science and technology of such [communication](#).
3. **telecommunication**, a message so transmitted.

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**adjective**

4. of or pertaining to telecommunications.

**Telecommunications** has a plethora of syllables.  
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- (used as a nonsense word by children to express approval or to represent the longest word in English.)
- a white, crystalline, water-insoluble solid, C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>, usually derived from chloral by reaction with chlorobenzene in the presence of fuming sulfuric acid: used as an insecticide and as a scabicide and pediculicide: agricultural use prohibited in the U.S.

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**Origin:**

1930-35; **tele-**<sup>1</sup> + **communication** + **-s**<sup>3</sup>

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**telecommunications** (ˌtɛlɪkəˌmjuːnɪˈkeɪʃnz)

— *n*

( *functioning as singular* ) the science and technology of communications by telephony, radio, television, etc

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**telecommunication** (tɛlɪˈkə-my ˈnɪ-kāˈshən) [Pronunciation](#)  
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The science and technology of sending and receiving information such as sound, visual images, or computer data over long distances through the use of electrical, radio, or light signals, using electronic devices to encode the information as signals and to decode the signals as information.

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On appeal, the Supreme Court again reversed the Eighth Circuit, observing that the FCC's methodology had been designed so that smaller companies could enter and compete more easily in local phone markets. The ILECs preferred a methodology that would have increased the amount they were allowed to charge the CLECs. The increase would have amounted to billions of dollars in charges. Moreover, the Court held that the FCC also has the authority to force ILECs to combine leased elements upon request by a CLEC. These include local, long-distance, Internet, and pay-per-call information and entertainment services.

In a decision that involved two cases, the Supreme Court ruled that state utility commissions and individual commissioners may be sued in federal court by long-distance phone companies that disagree with the way they are enforcing federal laws (*Verizon Maryland v. Public Service Commission of Maryland*, 535 U.S. 635, 122 S. Ct. 1753, 152 L.Ed. 2d 871 (2002), *Mathias v. Worldcom Technologies, Inc.*, 535 U.S. 682, 122 S. Ct. 1780 (Mem), 152 L.Ed. 2d 911 (2002)).

In the first of these cases, Bell Atlantic Maryland, the region's ILEC, had refused to pay reciprocal compensation to Worldcom, a CLEC. The second case involved the same issue, except that the ILEC in question was Ameritech Illinois. Under the 1996 Telecommunications Act, local calls trigger the ILEC's obligation to offer reciprocal compensation, while long-distance calls do not. The Maryland and Illinois ILECs refused to offer reciprocal compensation when their customers made phone calls to Internet service providers that were customers of the CLECs, arguing that a call to an Internet service provider is a long-distance call even though the number may be local. They reasoned that a phone call to another person connects the caller to that person, but a connection to the Internet gives the caller access to websites and information around the world—hence, a long-distance call.

The Maryland Public Service Commission and the Illinois Commerce Commission, respectively, rejected this argument, and the ILECs sued them in federal court, along with individual commissioners and the CLECs in question. The federal courts upheld the utility commission's decisions; the Fourth and Seventh Circuit Courts did so, as well, on appeal (*Bell Atlantic Maryland, Inc. v. MCI WorldCom, Inc.*, 240 F.3d 279 [4th Cir. 2001]; *Illinois Bell Telephone Co. v. Worldcom Technologies, Inc.*, 179 F.3d 566 [7th Cir. 1999]). One of the arguments made by the ILECs was that federal courts had no jurisdiction over these cases under the Telecommunications Act.

The Supreme Court held that the 1996 Telecommunications Act is a federal law, and as such, federal courts should be able to enforce the law by hearing cases brought against state regulators. As for whether individual commissioners could be sued, the Court cited *Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123, 28 S.Ct. 441, 52 L.Ed 714 (1908), and said that state officials can be sued in their official capacity as long as the suit alleges an ongoing violation of federal law, and as long as the relief sought can be characterized as prospective (looking toward the future).

## Radio

In the early twentieth century, radio was regarded primarily as a device to make maritime operations safer and a potential advancement of military technology. During *World War I*, however, entrepreneurs began to recognize the commercial possibilities of radio. By the mid-1920s, commercial radio stations were operating in many parts of the United States, and owners began selling air time for advertisements. The Federal Radio Commission was created, in 1927, to assign applicants designated frequencies under specific engineering rules and to create and enforce standards for the broadcasters' privilege of using the public's airwaves.

The commission later became the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which was established by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.A. § 151 et seq.). The FCC issues licenses to radio and television stations, which permit the stations to use specific frequencies to transmit programming. Licenses are issued only on a showing that public convenience, interest, and necessity will be served and that an applicant satisfies certain requirements, such as citizenship, good character, financial capability, and technical expertise.

Before 1996, the FCC restricted persons or entities from acquiring excessive power through ownership of a number of radio and television facilities. The rule was based on the assumption that if one person or company owned most or all of the media outlets in an area, the diversity of information and programming on these stations would be restricted.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 eliminated the limit on the number of radio stations that one entity may own nationally. The FCC was also directed to reduce the restrictions on locally owned radio stations. Congress determined that less regulation was in the public interest.

In addition, the FCC seeks to prohibit the broadcast of obscene and indecent material. The Supreme Court has upheld regulations banning obscene material, because *Obscenity* is not protected by the *First Amendment*. It also permits the FCC to prohibit material that is "patently offensive," and either "sexual" or "excretory," from being broadcast during times when children are presumed to be in the audience (*FCC v. Pacifica Foundation*, 438 U.S. 726, 98 S. Ct. 3026, 57 L. Ed. 2d 1073 [1978]).

## Television

The commercial exploitation of television did not begin in the United States until the late 1940s. The FCC followed its example from radio and established licensing procedures for stations seeking permission to transmit television signals. It became the oversight body for the U.S. television industry.

The FCC has applied to television a prohibition similar to that imposed on radio against the broadcast of obscene and indecent material. For purposes of parental control, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 mandated the establishment of an advisory committee to rate video programming that contains indecent material. The act also stated that, by 1998, new television sets had to be equipped with a so-called V-chip to allow parents to block programs with a predesignated rating for sex and violence.

Cable television became a viable commercial form of telecommunication in the 1980s. Both the FCC and local governments had an interest in regulating cable systems, with municipalities awarding a cable system franchise to one vendor. Cable operators negotiated system requirements and pricing with local governments, but federal law imposed some restrictions on rates to consumers. Concerns about rate regulation led Congress to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (Pub. L. No. 102-385). The act gave the FCC greater control of the cable television industry and set rate structures to control the price of cable subscriptions. The Telecommunications Act of 1996, however, reversed the 1992 act by ending all rate regulation. The act also allowed the seven regional telephone companies to compete in the cable television market to end the monopoly that cable systems had enjoyed under the previous regulatory scheme.

For customers who cannot obtain cable television programming, the transmission of television signals by satellite has been a practical solution. Since their introduction in the 1990s, direct broadcast satellite systems have competed with cable television systems, offering high-quality video and audio signals, and access to a wide range of programming.

## Transmission of Digital Data

In the 1980s and 1990s, the use of digital data transmission revolutionized the communication of words, images, and sounds. Computer-driven means of telecommunication have made possible electronic mail (E-Mail), the sharing of computer files, and, most importantly, the Internet.

The Internet is a network of computers linking the United States with the rest of the world. Originally developed as a way for U.S. research scientists to communicate with each other, by the mid-1990s the Internet had become a popular form of telecommunication for personal computer users. Written text represents a significant portion of the Internet's content, in the form of both E-mail and articles posted to electronic discussion forums. In the mid-1990s, the appearance of the World Wide Web made the Internet even more popular. The Web is a multimedia interface that allows for the transmission of what are known as Web pages, which resemble pages in a magazine. In addition to combining text and pictures or graphics, the multimedia interface makes it possible to add audio and video components. Together these various elements have made the Internet a medium for communication and for the retrieval of information on virtually any topic.

The federal government has attempted to regulate this form of telecommunication. Congress passed the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA) (18 U.S.C.A. § 2701 et seq. [1994]), also known as the Wiretap Act, which made it illegal to read private E-mail. The ECPA extended to electronic mail most of the protection already granted to conventional mail. This protection, however, has not been extended to all E-mail that is transmitted in the workplace.

A controversial issue in the workplace is whether an employer should be able to monitor the E-mail messages of its employees. An employer has a strong legal and financial motive to prohibit unauthorized and inappropriate use of its E-mail system. Under the Wiretap Act, a company is not restricted in its ability to review messages stored on its internal E-mail system. In addition, interception of electronic communications is permitted when it is done in the ordinary course of business or to protect the employer's rights or property. This exception would apply when, for example, an employer has reasons to suspect that an employee is using the E-mail system to disclose information to a competitor or to send harassing messages to a coworker. Finally, the prohibitions of the Wiretap Act do not apply if the employee whose messages are monitored has explicitly or implicitly consented to such monitoring.

Congress sought to curb the transmission of indecent content on the Internet and other computer network telecommunications systems by enacting the Communications Decency Act (CDA) (47 U.S.C.A. § 223(a)-(h)), as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The CDA made it a federal crime to use telecommunications to transmit "any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image, or other communication which is obscene or indecent, knowing that the recipient of the communication is under 18 years of age, regardless of whether the maker of such communication placed the call or initiated the communication." It includes penalties for violations of up to five years imprisonment and fines of up to \$250,000.

In *Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union*, 521 U.S. 844, 117 S. Ct. 2329, 138 L. Ed. 2d 874 (1997), the Supreme Court struck down the "indecent" provision as a violation of the First Amendment right of free speech.

## Standards in Telecommunication

Certain telecommunication methods have become standards in the telecommunication industry because devices with different standards cannot communicate with each other. Standards are developed either through the widespread use of a particular method or by a standard-setting organization. The International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations agency which sits in Geneva, Switzerland, and one of its operational bodies, the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee, play a key role in standardizing telecommunication methods. For example, the committee's standards for the fax machine that were adopted in the 1980s facilitated the dramatic increase in use of this form of telecommunication.

## Further readings

Benjamin, Stuart Minor, Douglas Gary Lichtman, and Howard A. Shelanski. 2001. *Telecommunications Law and Policy*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press.

Black, Sharon K. 2002. *Telecommunications Law in the Internet Age*. San Francisco: Morgan Kaufmann.

## Cross-references

Broadcasting; Electronic Surveillance; Employment Law; Entertainment Law; Fairness Doctrine; Privacy; Pornography.

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# Telecommunications



Telecommunications, or telecom, is the transmission of signals over long distances. It began with the invention of the telephone in 1876, then expanded to radio broadcasts in the late 1800s and to television in the early 1900s. Today, telecommunications also includes the Internet and cellular phone networks.

Early telecommunications transmissions used analog signals, which were transferred over copper wires. Today, telephone and cable companies still use these same lines, though most transmissions are now digital. For this reason, most new telecommunications wiring is done with cables that are optimized for digital communication, such as fiber-optic cables and digital phone lines.

Since both analog and digital communications are based on electrical signals, transmitted data is received almost instantaneously, regardless of the distance. This allows people to quickly communicate with others across the street or across the globe. So whether you're sending an e-mail to a coworker, or talking on the phone with a friend, you can thank telecommunications for making it possible. It sure is more efficient than the Pony Express.

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# Telecommunications service

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In telecommunication, the term **telecommunications service** has the following meanings:

1. Any service provided by a telecommunication provider.
2. A specified set of user-information transfer capabilities provided to a group of users by a telecommunications system.

*Note:* The telecommunications service user is responsible for the information content of the message. The telecommunications service provider has the responsibility for the acceptance, transmission, and delivery of the message.

[1]

For purposes of regulation by the Federal Communications Commission under the U.S. Communications Act of 1934 and Telecommunications Act of 1996, the definition of **telecommunications service** is "the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used."<sup>[2]</sup> "**Telecommunications**", in turn, is defined as "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received."<sup>[3]</sup>

## Contents

- 1 Standardization
- 2 See also
- 3 References
- 4 See also

## Standardization

## See also

- Communications service provider
- Intelligent network service (IN service)
- Internet service provider (ISP)
- Service layer
- Value-added service (content provider redirects here)

## References

1. ↑   This article incorporates public domain material from the General Services Administration document "Federal Standard 1037C" (in support of MIL-STD-188).
2. ↑ 47 U.S.C. § 153(46).
3. ↑ 47 U.S.C. § 153(43).

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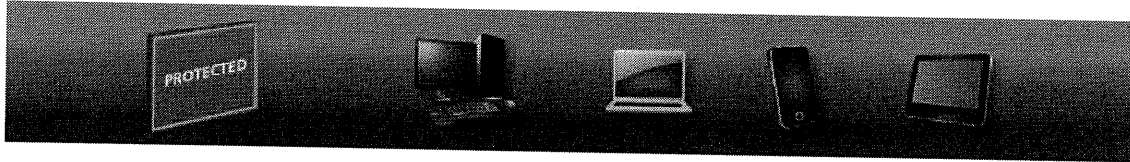
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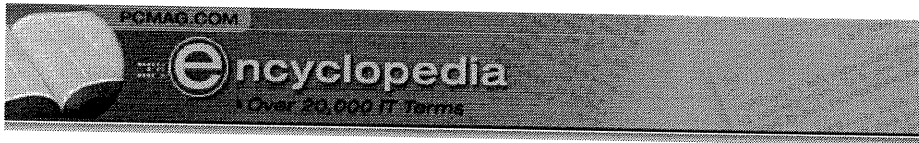
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Definition of: **telecommunications**

Communicating information, including data, text, pictures, voice and video over long distance. See communications.



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- 1 : communication at a distance (as by telephone)
- 2 : technology that deals with telecommunication —usually used in plural

### Origin of TELECOMMUNICATION

International Scientific Vocabulary

First Known Use: 1932

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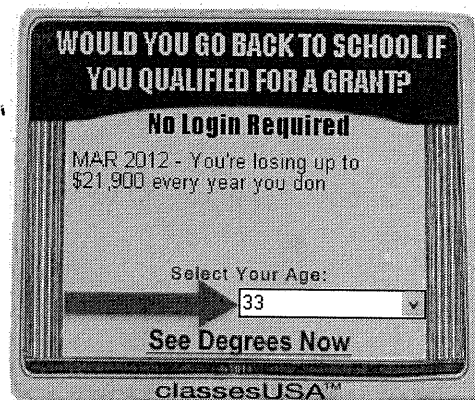
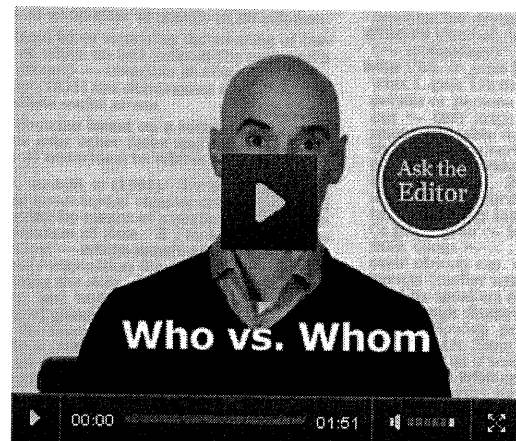
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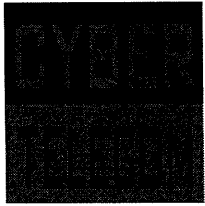
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## Telecommunications

### Telecommunications

"Telecommunications - the term 'telecommunications' means the transmission, between and among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received." 47 U.S.C. § 153(43) (1999).

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19. The Act defines "telecommunications" as "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received." Under this definition, an entity provides telecommunications only when it both provides a transparent transmission path and it does not change the form or content of the information. ... -- In Re Appropriate Framework for Broadband Access to the Internet over Wireline Facilities, CC Docket No. 02-33, CC Dockets Nos. 95-20, 98-10, NPRM ¶ 13 (February 15, 2002) [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-02-42A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-02-42A1.doc)

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"Telecommunications" is defined in the Act as "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received."<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 153(43).

--In Re Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Inter-Carrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic, CC Docket No. 96-98, CC Docket No. 99-68, Declaratory Ruling ¶ 8 (February 26, 1999)

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In Re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Report to Congress ¶ 101 (April 10, 1998) ("With respect to the provision of pure transmission capacity to Internet service providers or Internet backbone providers, we have concluded that such provision is telecommunications.")

### **Internet = Telecommunications?**

"With respect to the provision of pure transmission capacity to Internet service providers or Internet backbone providers, we have concluded that such provision is telecommunications" *In re* Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Report to Congress, FCC 98-67 ¶ 101 (April 10, 1998)

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