Chapter 1 : Distance Learning Education and Programs

Distance education pr ovides both instructors and learn- ers with powerful tools for locating, synthesizing, and creating resources in digital "schools without walls.".

It actually dates back as far as when Caleb Phillips, a teacher in Boston, Massachusetts, offered shortland lessons to students via weekly mailed lessons. In the early s, long before the advent of the Internet, Isaac Pitman, a British educator, also taught shorthand through correspondence courses. Distance learning and education have a long history, but its popularity increased a hundred fold as more advanced technology and communication mediums became available in the late twentieth century. Distance education first took hold in the s, with over 25 state boards of education, schools systems and several colleges and universities offering educational programs broadcast over public radio. Computers and the internet made distance learning faster, easier and much more convenient. Today web-based, online education programs are available in most states in the US at the k12 level. Today, enrollment in distance education programs at every educational level is common place. Private, public, non-profit, and for-profit secondary, post-secondary and higher education institutions, including high schools, colleges and universities, now offers distance education programs in just about every field of study imaginable. From basic literacy to doctoral programs, distance education courses at available at every level of instruction. The Internet While distance education programs are offered via a large variety of communication mediums, online education, via the Internet, is now the norm. In , Jones International University was the first higher education institution to launch a fully online accredited degree program. In the following years, most major colleges and universities quickly followed suit. Reputable higher education institutions such as Harvard University and Stanford now offers distance learning programs for their students entirely online. According to a survey, conducted by the Babson Survey Research Group , in distance education enrollments increased for the fourteenth straight year. Even though for-profit universities have been the quickest to adopt and exploit Internet technology to offer online degrees to the masses, the majority of public colleges now offer their academic programs completely online as well. Common fields of study pursued online include, but are not limited to, programs in business, psychology, criminal justice, health sciences, computer science, design and liberal arts. Distance learning has quickly been adopted as the training and education method of choice among busy working professionals. Online distance learning programs offer the most affordable and convenient means of earning a degree, improving skills and pursuing a higher education. Technologies There are two modes of delivery for distance education technologies: In synchronous learning, all learners participate in the education experience at the same time. A traditional classroom is an example a synchronous learning experience, where students participate jointing in learning and class lectures. With respect to distance education, synchronous learning methods includes videoconferencing, web conferencing, educational television, internet radio, direct-broadcast satellite DBS , live streaming video, web-based VoIP, and even telephone. Many modern software programs, such as Adobe Connect, facilitate synchronous distance learning. Asynchronous distance learning is much more flexible than synchronous learning. Students are able to access course materials whenever they want, from wherever they want â€" and are not required to be with other students during the learning process. The oldest form of asynchronous distance learning technology is mail correspondence, which has been employed for over a century. Today e-mail, video and audio recordings, message boards, print materials, fax and stream video over the Internet facilitate asynchronous distance learning. Asynchronous distance education is the mode of choice for most online colleges and universities seeking to provide their students the most flexible and convenient distance learning experience possible. However, many higher education institutions blend asynchronous learning with synchronous learning.

Chapter 2 : Distance education - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! Distance education and tomorrow's schools. [Barbara L Ludlow; Michael C Duff; Phi Delta Kappa. Educational Foundation.] -- This booklet provides an overview of distance education today, including discussion of exemplary programs and implications for the future.

Distance Education Schools What is meant by distance education schools? In the fast paced world, it is difficult for individuals to take special time out from their work routine to enhance their education. Because of this reason, more and more people are opting to continue their professional development through distance education schools. You can now make that dream promotion a reality by enrolling in any school of distance education and continue studying for a particular course or degree. The programs offered in distance education schools are carried out online that is a convenient way for many to carry out their education at the ease of their home. Featured Schools Popular school distance education degrees The distance education schools offer a variety of degrees or programs to candidates. These programs are offered at the following levels: High school Master Average Earnings after degree from the school of distance education Again this varies from case to case, however the candidates availing the option of distance education schools find a very obvious pay raise after graduation from any school program. Criteria for selecting the school of distance education There are a number of distance education schools available online. Some of them are even affiliated with accredited universities and colleges. However, what should be the points you ought to consider before choosing a school of distance education? We list down some of the factors that are helpful for you in making the right selection for your distance education: Research about the school of distance education before enrolling in the program. It is a good idea to compare the potential programs offered in distance education schools before opting for one. Try going for that school distance education that helps you build up your practical skills. After all, you want to be taken seriously once in your professional life after you are done with the degree. Do keep comfort in your mind. You must select a distance education schools program that fits into your lifestyle without any excessive social adjustments from your side. Frequently Asked Question s Q: What are the contents of the course on Business Communications in the distance education schools? This course usually is worth 2 credits in total. It is designed to provide students with strong understanding of the basic principles of business level communications. Students are also further provided with hands on experience in this course for better understanding.

Chapter 3 : Institutional History | School of Distance Education

Distance education technologies are discussed in the second section, including "low tech" systems (correspondence and audioconferencing), "high tech" systems (broadcast television, compressed video, computer multimedia modules, and online instruction), and technology costs.

Distance Education Having been the talk of the town for decades, distance education is nothing new. It opens doors for many students, especially those who have demanding lifestyle and who cannot afford to pay for the high fees for full-time courses. Earning a degree at the comfort of your home and the self-paced learning schedule seems tempting and enjoyable. But, as everything goes, distance education is not for everyone. There are e-learners who thrive on the independence offered by online education as well as those who wish they had enrolled at a traditional school instead. To make the cut with distance education, there are certain rules you may want to understand. Many people doubt the quality of distance education. The fact is, distance education works just fine, if not better than traditional schools. The courses, resources used for distance learning are similar to that of traditional schools. Teaching faculty is no less experienced. What do you need to carry on distance learning? A computer with internet access, which does not cost much. Follow the example of successful e-learners If you take a closer look to successful learners, you will find that they share a few characteristics. They are actively self-motivated; they can complete every assignment without being supervised by a teacher. In some cases, distance learners work even harder. They have a clear idea of what procrastination can end up with. Distance learning does not have prescribed requirements on attendance. This, in a sense, opens doors for those desirous of playing hooky. However, successful learners never abuse this kind of independence. Mastering time management skills is the first lesson they learn. To improve learning quality, most online schools provide lots of learning resources, including supplementary resources, for students to use. These resources are a great help to distance learners. So if you feel like making a difference with distance learning, be sure to make full use of them.

Chapter 4 : Virtual Schooling: Issues in the Development of E-learning Policy - Google Books

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History[edit] One of the earliest attempts was advertised in This was in the Boston Gazette for "Caleb Philipps, Teacher of the new method of Short Hand ", who sought students who wanted to learn through weekly mailed lessons. The background to this innovation lay in the fact that the institution later known as University College London was non-denominational and, given the intense religious rivalries at the time, there was an outcry against the "godless" university. The issue soon boiled down to which institutions had degree -granting powers and which institutions did not. As Sheldon Rothblatt states: In the United States, William Rainey Harper , first president of the University of Chicago , celebrated the concept of extended education, whereby the research university had satellite colleges in the wider community. Founded in to provide training for immigrant coal miners aiming to become state mine inspectors or foremen, it enrolled new students in and matriculated 72, new students in By total enrollments reached , The growth was due to sending out complete textbooks instead of single lessons, and the use of aggressive in-person salesmen. The regular technical school or college aims to educate a man broadly; our aim, on the contrary, is to educate him only along some particular line. The college demands that a student shall have certain educational qualifications to enter it and that all students study for approximately the same length of time; when they have finished their courses they are supposed to be qualified to enter any one of a number of branches in some particular profession. We, on the contrary, are aiming to make our courses fit the particular needs of the student who takes them. For men who were older or were too busy with family responsibilities, night schools were opened, such as the YMCA school in Boston that became Northeastern University. Outside the big cities, private correspondence schools offered a flexible, narrowly focused solution. The National Association of Corporation Schools grew from 37 in to to in Starting in the s, private schools opened across the country which offered specialized technical training to anyone who enrolled, not just the employees of one company. Starting in Milwaukee in , public schools began opening free vocational programs. Australia, with its vast distances, was especially active; the University of Queensland established its Department of Correspondence Studies in The International Conference for Correspondence Education held its first meeting in Planning commenced in under the Minister of State for Education , Jennie Lee , who established a model for the Open University OU as one of widening access to the highest standards of scholarship in higher education, and set up a planning committee consisting of university vice-chancellors, educationalists and television broadcasters, chaired by Sir Peter Venables. The British Broadcasting Corporation BBC Assistant Director of Engineering at the time, James Redmond , had obtained most of his qualifications at night school , and his natural enthusiasm for the project did much to overcome the technical difficulties of using television to broadcast teaching programmes. It has been at the forefront of developing new technologies to improve the distance learning service [26] as well as undertaking research in other disciplines. The election of the new Conservative government under the leadership of Edward Heath , in ; led to budget cuts under Chancellor of the Exchequer Iain Macleod who had earlier called the idea of an Open University "blithering nonsense". At the time, the total student population of conventional universities in the United Kingdom was around , Some open universities have grown to become mega-universities, [31] a term coined to denote institutions with more than , students. Although the expansion of the Internet blurs the boundaries, distance education technologies are divided into two modes of delivery: In synchronous learning, all participants are "present" at the same time. In this regard, it resembles traditional classroom teaching methods despite the participants being located remotely. It requires a timetable to be organized. Web conferencing , videoconferencing , educational television , instructional television are examples of synchronous technology, as are direct-broadcast satellite DBS , internet radio , live streaming , telephone , and web-based VoIP. These tools also support asynchronous participation by students being able to listen to recordings of synchronous sessions. Immersive environments notably SecondLife have also been used to enhance participant presence in distance education courses. Another form of synchronous learning that

has been entering the classroom over the last couple of years is the use of robot proxies [33] including those that allow sick students to attend classes. With these telepresence robots, the remote students have a seat at the table or desk instead of being on a screen on the wall. Students are not required to be together at the same time. Mail correspondence, which is the oldest form of distance education, is an asynchronous delivery technology, as are message board forums, e-mail , video and audio recordings , print materials, voicemail , and fax. Many courses offered by both open universities and an increasing number of campus based institutions use periodic sessions of residential or day teaching to supplement the sessions delivered at a distance. Many open universities uses a blend of technologies and a blend of learning modalities face-to-face, distance, and hybrid all under the rubric of "distance learning". Distance learning can also use interactive radio instruction IRI , interactive audio instruction IAI , online virtual worlds , digital games, webinars, and webcasts, all of which are referred to as e-Learning. Experts in given fields broadcast lessons for pupils within the many schoolrooms of the public school system, asking questions, suggesting readings, making assignments, and conducting tests. This mechanizes education and leaves the local teacher only the tasks of preparing for the broadcast and keeping order in the classroom. The University was owned by the city, and local residents would pay the low tuition rates, receive their study materials in the mail, and listen by radio to live classroom discussions that were held on campus. Posin also was a pioneer in the field of distance education when he hosted a televised course through DePaul University. The radio courses faded away in the s. The study included the University of California , California State University and the community colleges. This study led to coordinated instructional systems legislation allowing the use of public funds for non-classroom instruction and paved the way for the emergence of telecourses as the precursor to the online courses and programs of today. Virtual education The widespread use of computers and the internet have made distance learning easier and faster, and today virtual schools and virtual universities deliver full curricula online. However, many of the techniques developed and lessons learned with earlier media are used in Internet delivery. In Jones International University was launched as the first fully online university accredited by a regional accrediting association in the US. Levels of accreditation vary: The majority of public and private colleges now offer full academic programs online. Even engineering courses that require the manipulation and control of machines and robots [60] that are technically more challenging to learn remotely are subject to distance learning through the internet. Distance education has a long history, but its popularity and use has grown exponentially as more advanced technology has become available. By , online learning programs were available in the United States in 44 states at the K level. Research shows that socialization plays an important role in some forms of distance education. There are many available that cover a broad range of topics. Paced and self paced models[edit] Distance education can be delivered in a paced format similar to traditional campus based models in which learners commence and complete a course at the same time. Paced delivery is currently the most common mode of distance education delivery. Paced courses may be offered in either synchronus mode, but self-paced courses are almost always offered asynchronously. Each delivery model offers both advantages and disadvantages for students, teachers and institutions. Kaplan and Haenlein classify distance education into four groups along the dimensions Time dependency and Number of participants: Open-access online course i. Online course that only offers a limited number of places and therefore requires some form of formal enrollment; 3 SMOCs Synchronous Massive Online Courses: Open-access online course that allows for unlimited participation but requires students to be "present" at the same time synchronously ; 4 SSOCs Synchronous Private Online Courses: Online course that only offers a limited number of places and requires students to be "present" at the same time synchronously. Institutes that offer both distance and campus programs usually use paced models as teacher workload, student semester planning, tuition deadlines, exam schedules and other administrative details can be synchronized with campus delivery. Student familiarity and the pressure of deadlines encourages students to readily adapt to and usually succeed in paced models. However, student freedom is sacrificed as a common pace is often too fast for some students and too slow for others. In addition life events, professional or family responsibilities can interfere with a students capability to complete tasks to an external schedule. Finally, paced models allows students to readily form communities of inquiry [63] and to engage in collaborative work. Self-paced courses maximize student freedom, as not only

can students commence studies on any date, but they can complete a course in as little time as a few weeks or up to a year or longer. Students often enroll in self-paced study when they are under pressure to complete programs, have not been able to complete a scheduled course, need additional courses or have pressure which precludes regular study for any length of time. The self-paced nature of the programming, though is an unfamiliar model for many students and can lead to excessive procrastination resulting in course incompletion. Assessment of learning can also be challenging as exams can be written on any day, making it possible for students to share examination questions with resulting loss of academic integrity. Finally, it is extremely challenging to organize collaborative work activities, though some schools [64] are developing cooperative models based upon networked and connectivist pedagogies, [65] for use in self-paced programs. Benefits[edit] Distance learning can expand access to education and training for both general populace and businesses since its flexible scheduling structure lessens the effects of the many time-constraints imposed by personal responsibilities and commitments. With the many tools and programs that technological advancements have to offer, communication appears to increase in distance education amongst students and their professors, as well as students and their classmates. The distance educational increase in communication, particularly communication amongst students and their classmates, is an improvement that has been made to provide distance education students with as many of the opportunities as possible as they would receive in in-person education. The improvement being made in distance education is growing in tandem with the constant technological advancements. Present-day online communication allows students to associate with accredited schools and programs throughout the world that are out of reach for in-person learning. By having the opportunity to be involved in global institutions via distance education, a diverse array of thought is presented to students through communication with their classmates. This is beneficial because students have the opportunity to "combine new opinions with their own, and develop a solid foundation for learning". Distance education may be able to help to save students a considerable amount financially by removing the cost of transportation. Many textbooks are now available as electronic textbooks, known as e-textbooks, which can offer digital textbooks for a reduced price in comparison to traditional textbooks. Also, the increasing improvements in technology have resulted in many school libraries having a partnership with digital publishers that offer course materials for free, which can help students significantly with educational costs. It is able to promote good learning experiences and therefore, allow students to obtain higher satisfaction with their online learning. Students can then manipulate the coursework to fit their learning by focusing more on their weaker topics while breezing through concepts that they already have or can easily grasp. For those in a healthcare or mental health distance learning program, online-based interactions have the potential to foster deeper reflections and discussions of client issues [56] as well as a quicker response to client issues, since supervision happens on a regular basis and is not limited to a weekly supervision meeting. This helps the students have experiences of the classroom and social interaction that they are unable to receive at home or the hospital, while still keeping them in a safe learning environment. Over the last few years[when? An article from the New York Times, "A Swiveling Proxy Will Even Wear a Tutu", explains the positive impact of virtual learning in the classroom, [73] and another [74] that explains how even a simple, stationary telepresence robot can help. Instead of these students having no other academic opportunities, they may continue their education from their homes and earn their diplomas, offering them another chance to be an integral part of society. Distance Learning offers individuals a unique opportunity to benefit from the expertise and resources of the best Universities currently available. Students have the ability to collaborate, share, question, infer and suggest new methods and techniques for continuous improvement of the content. The ability to complete a course at a t pace that is appropriate for each individual is the most effective manner to learn given the personal demands on time and schedule. Self-paced distance learning on a mobile device such is a smartphone provides maximum flexibility and capability. Students must be provided with training opportunities if needed on each tool that is used throughout the program. The lack of advanced technology skills can lead to an unsuccessful experience. Schools have a responsibility to adopt a proactive policy for managing technology barriers.

Chapter 5 : Distance Education Schools, Online Distance Education Schools

Distance learning is the most significant phenomenon occurring in higher education today. Everywhere one looks, whether in community colleges, 4-year institutions, Ivy League colleges, research institutions, or technical colleges, distance education is on the rise, and the rise is occurring at a rapid pace.

Chapter 6 : Home | School of Continuing and Distance Education

Distance education first took hold in the s, with over 25 state boards of education, schools systems and several colleges and universities offering educational programs broadcast over public radio.

Chapter 7 : Â» How to Make the Cut with Distance Education â€¢ Index of Online Schools

Accredited Online Colleges and Universities Choosing the Right School Just Got Easier. Our listings provide you with everything you need to make a decision about a school - including a full list of online degree programs, college reviews and opinions, and accreditation information on over accredited online schools and universities.

Chapter 8 : Front Page | School of Distance Education

As a reminder for folks who may be unfamiliar with Hattie's work, he is the author of the book Visible Learning and someone who I recommend every individual involved in education read - particularly everyone involved in K online learning.

Chapter 9 : Distance Education - Graduate & Continuing Studies

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) is a private, non-profit organization founded in that operates as an institutional accreditor of distance education institutions. Accreditation by DEAC covers all distance education activities within an institution and it provides accreditation from the secondary school level through.