

RESOURCES ON THE NET: DISTANCE LEARNING

Compiled by
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This column identifies a selective sample of web-based sources related to librarianship and distance education. It is by no means a comprehensive listing as there is a vast quantity of information available on this topic. Sites were retrieved from the databases of Hotbot, Northernlight, Google, and Metacrawler search engines using the following basic search strategies: "distance (education or learning) AND librar*". Please note that some abstracts have been taken directly from the papers.

Resources

Eggers, R.M. (2000). *World wide web virtual library: Distance education*. Retrieved on November 30, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.cisnet.com/~cattales/Deducation.html>

A series of links categorized by subjects such as: Distance education offerings; Journals and Newsgroups; Organizations; and Articles. Links are not annotated.

Journal of Library Services for Distance Education. Available from the World Wide Web: <http://www.westga.edu/~library/jlsde/welcome.html>

A peer-reviewed e-journal, international in scope, which publishes articles on the issues and challenges of providing research/information services to students enrolled in formal post-secondary distance education.

Sloan, B. (n.d.). *Library support for distance learning*. Retrieved on November 30, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/~b-sloan/libdist.htm>

Sloan, from the G.S.L.I.S., of U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, states that his purpose is to provide an informational resource for librarians interested in the issues of library support for distance learners. He also wants to provide equitable access to information, therefore all resources are accessible via the Web. This site includes annotations but does not list a date and some of the links are dead, unfortunately.

University of Texas. (1998, September). *Distance education: A primer bibliography, resources*. Retrieved on December 1, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.utexas.edu/cc/cit/de/deprimer/bibliography.html>

University of Wisconsin-Extension. (2000, November 21). *Distance education clearinghouse*. Retrieved on November 30, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/home.html>

These two sites each provide an extensive list of links. The latter includes searching capabilities and quite a comprehensive list of empirical research, including twenty bibliographies. Both are good resources in which to start off a search for material on distance education.

Articles and Reports

Association of College and Research Libraries. (1998). *Guidelines for distance learning library services*. Retrieved on December 20, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/guides/distlrng.html>

This revision of the 1990 *Guidelines for Extended Campus Library Services* was prepared in response to a variety of requests from individuals who recognize the importance of ensuring excellence in library services for extended academic programs. Library resources and services in institutions of higher education must meet the needs of all their faculty, students, and academic support staff, wherever these individuals are located, whether on a main campus, off campus, in distance education or extended campus programs, or in the absence of a campus at all; in courses taken for credit or non-credit; in continuing education programs; in courses attended in person or by means of electronic transmission; or any other means of distance education. These *Guidelines* delineate the elements (e.g. Finances, Management, Personnel, Facilities, Resources, Services) necessary to achieving these ends.

Canadian Library Association. (2000, November). *Guidelines for library support of distance and distributed learning in Canada*. Retrieved on December 20, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://gateway1.uvic.ca/dls/guidelines.html>

A revision of the 1992 *Guidelines*, these are designed to serve a number of purposes: to assist in the development of library services for new distance learning programs; to assist in the improvement of library services for existing distance learning programs; to stress the need for the originating institution to assume full responsibility for ensuring that distant learners have access to library services that are equivalent to services provided to on-campus patrons; and to emphasize that traditional library services are not sufficient to meet the library needs of most distance learners.

Consortium for Educational Technology for University Systems. (1997). *Information resources and library services for distance learners: A framework for quality*. Discussion series. Retrieved on November 30, 2000 from the World Wide Web: http://www.cetus.org/dist_lrn.pdf

This document summarizes the results of the CSU-SUNY-CUNY Work Group following a two-year study. It contains recommendations on guidelines for information resources and library services for distance learners. The premise is that all key players (librarians, students, faculty, administrators) should collaborate in providing access to, and delivery of, education. Throughout the process, students must be provided with the resources necessary to support their learning experiences. Sections include: an overview of distance education and current practices in providing information resources and library services; current policies; a statement of principles; and a discussion of fair use and ownership.

Distance education in a print and electronic world: Emerging role for libraries. (1998). Proceedings of the OCLC Symposium ALA Midwinter Conference (New Orleans, January 9, 1998). Retrieved on November 23, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.oclc.org/oclc/man/10256dis/print.htm>

A collection of four papers that provide different perspectives on the library's role in distance education. The papers are M. Jones - Future fast forward: Libraries and distance education; J.R. Madaus - Florida distance learning library initiative; S.C. Ehrmann - Libraries and distance learning; and H.R. Stewart - Zip drive into distance education.

Heller-Ross, H. (1996). Librarian and faculty partnerships for distance education. *MC Journal: Journal of Academic Media Librarianship*, 4(1). Based on a paper published at the 9th annual conference on Distance Education and Training (Augusta, ME, Sept. 1995). Revised for the inaugural conference on Interactive Technology in Health Education (Plattsburgh, NY, June 1996). Retrieved on December 10, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/publications/mcjrnl/v4n1/platt.html>

Heller-Ross looks at some of the opportunities that distance education programs present to faculty educators and librarians. Active partnerships between these two groups can improve curriculum enrichment, research instruction, and student services.

Jones, M. (1997, August). High five for the next five: Librarians and distance education. *Journal of Library Services for Distance Education*, 1(1). Retrieved on December 10, 2000 on the World Wide Web: <http://www.westga.edu/~library/jlsde/vol1/1/MJones.html>

Jones describes five emerging trends in distance education that are forecasted for the next five years given the technology mix that is shaping course content creation, exploration, interaction and learning outcomes.

Parnell, S. (1996, November). *Literature searches and distance education: Whose problem?* Occasional papers in open and distance learning, no.20. Retrieved on December 15, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/oli/oli-rd/occpap20/parnell.htm>

Libraries that attempt to provide a comprehensive range of services to distance education students face a number of challenges. This paper looks at the problems the user "in absentia" may occasion the librarian and considers the question of who should take responsibility for the intellectual content of literature searches. Parnell concludes that a possible response is to formulate and act upon a policy of differential service based upon the nature and level of the course of study and the degree of isolation of the student. An interesting issue for librarians.

Schiller, N. (1997, January 23). *Distance learning project proposal: Collaborative WWW support of distance learning*. Retrieved on November 23, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/course/proposal.htm>

A description of a project that addresses the feasibility of using the Internet to deliver library resources and services to students enrolled in distance learning at SUNY. Libraries at selected SUNY campuses worked collaboratively to develop a prototype that would serve as a model for all these campuses.

U.S. Copyright Office. (1999, May). *Report on copyright and digital distance education*. A report of the register of copyrights. Retrieved on December 1, 2000 from the World Wide Web: http://www.loc.gov/copyright/docs/de_rpt.pdf

This lengthy report (170pp) based on a six month study, and compiled by the U.S. Copyright Office, is divided into six parts: Overview of the nature of distance education; Current licensing practices in digital distance education; Status of technologies relating to the delivery and protection of distance education materials; Application of current copyright law to digital distance education activities; Prior initiatives addressing copyright and digital distance education; and an examination of whether the law should be changed with a look at the Copyright Office's analysis and recommendations. This is a timely and important issue for libraries. An executive summary (25pp) accompanies this detailed report.

Zastrow, J. (1997). *Going the distance: Academic libraries in the virtual university*. Reprint from Proceedings of the 12th Computers in Libraries conference (Arlington, VI, March 10-12, 1997). Retrieved on December 10, 2000 from the World Wide Web: <http://library.kcc.hawaii.edu/~illdoc/de/DEpaper.htm>

This paper addresses two main roles that librarians can play in the field of distance education; that of providing support services and that of acting as technology advisor. Mentions some practical tips and outlines how one becomes a distance education librarian.

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This column contains a variety of interesting, and informative sites on special topics of interest to education librarians. It is hoped that readers will find many of these sites worth bookmarking for future reference.

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