

## Resources on Distance Learning

There is an ever growing variety of distance learning opportunities and resources that can assist you in developing a training program. Following is a list of resources on technologies that can help you explore options for distance learning training.

### History

- [Online Learning History](#) provides a complete history on the evolution of on-line learning and its implications.

### Resources/Noteworthy Practices

- **U.S. Department of Education**, Office of Vocational and Adult Learning provides access to information and resources on its Website at "[Technology and Distance Learning](#)."
- [IS DISTANCE LEARNING A GOOD FIT FOR ME?](#) – is a page on the National ATTC Website that provides a description of characteristics for successful distance learners and helpful hints to make it a successful experience.
- [Project IDEAL](#) (Improving Distance Education for Adult Learners) is a consortium of States working together to develop effective distance education programs for adult learners. Through collaborative research and practice, the consortium works to raise the quality of distance education across the country. The project was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education.
- [The BMJ](#) (British Medical Journal) is an international peer reviewed medical journal and a fully "online first" publication that offers an overview of Web-based resources.
- [TechRepublic](#) offers a free membership that allows access to a variety of technological oriented white papers, publications, and resources. For example, see "[Engaging with the New Elearning](#)" as well as a variety of [distance learning resources](#), including a helpful brochure on Distance Learning Technologies.
- **Florida Center for Instructional Technology** (2009). *A Teacher's Guide to Distance Learning* provides a chapter entitled the "[Overview of Distance Learning Technologies](#)" that describes the various technologies used in distance

learning and that can be roughly divided into four categories: print, audio (voice), computer (data), and video.

- [Virginia Tech](#) offers a guide to resources and information on Web-based learning.
- [Distance Education Training in Behavioral Health: A Rural Primary Care Needs Assessment and Pilot Webcast](#) is presented by WICHE Center for Rural Mental Health Research in 2009 and explores the need to train primary health care providers to recognize and treat behavioral and mental health needs.
- [Learning Hits Its Stride](#) by Garry Kranz provides insightful discussion on the costs of e-learning. For instance, the article states that one of every three hours of training is now being delivered via some form of technology, and that ratio is expected to climb in coming years and that technology-based methods accounted for 30 percent of all learning hours provided.
- [Online Learning Works for Corporate Training](#) by Mary Gormandy White (July 03, 2007) discusses benefits for companies who offer on-line training and dealing with challenges of providing effective training to employees on an ongoing basis. Delivering high-quality, consistent training classes and programs to diverse populations of employees via traditional learning methods can be very challenging for a number of reasons.  
<http://www.bmj.com/content/326/7394/870.extract>
- [Building an online community.. Of people who know how to build online communities](#) is an article posted on January 6, 2010 by Lucy that describes community management as involving “recruiting, motivating, managing, and helping participants to become active participants” and provides resources for managing online communities.

## **Research/Innovations/Trends**

- [Annual review of communications](#), Volume 59, edited by International Engineering Consortium discusses aspects such as how small can these technologies get, implications for training, cost-savings by end users, and many other topics.

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) presented a paper on the trends, policies, and strategy considerations of using distant learning (opportunities and challenges), especially for member States in 2002, entitled [Open and Distance Learning. Trends, Policy and Strategy Considerations.](#)
- **The Journal of Information Technology Education** offers an article in its Volume 6, 2007 entitled [Web-Based Learning Environment A Theory-Based Design Process for Development and Evaluation.](#)
- **The Academic Medicine** (Vol. 77, No. 10, October Supplement 2002) offers an article entitled [Web-based Learning: Sound Educational Method or Hype? A Review of Evaluating Literature.](#)
- [Training in cognitive-behavioural therapy for mental health professionals: a pilot study of videoconferencing](#) by Clare S Rees and Donelle Gillam details a foundation course in cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) that was developed specifically for delivery via videoconferencing. A two-part, 20-week program was evaluated at seven sites, with a total of 12 participants, in rural and remote Western Australia. Eleven of the participants completed a pre- and post-training knowledge test, and there was a significant improvement in their knowledge of CBT after training.
- [Internet-base tools for communication and collaboration in chemistry](#) provides a very technical description of web-based technologies.
- [Units of Analysis for Internet Communication](#) by [John December](#) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute provides a comprehensive analysis of Internet-based, Computer-mediated Communication; Approaches to Defining Communication; Integration; Examples of Internet Communication; The Server-Client-Content Triad; along with many references and graphs.
- Wijekumar, K., published an article in *Innovate* 1 (5), 2005 entitled [Creating Effective Web-Based Learning Environments: Relevant Research and Practice.](#)
- [Meeting Tomorrow's Internet Performance Requirements Today](#) is a White Paper prepared by Keynote Systems discussing Web-based applications that are essential to effective on-line performance and how to avoid complicating

matters in the ever-expanding list of technologies that can comprise the online platform.

## **Adaptive Technologies for Distance Learning**

- Sherlyl Burgstahler, Ph.D., "[Distance Learning](#)," offers tips on making distance learning accessible (The University of Washington, The Faculty Room—Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology, 2001-2004).
- Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D., "[Real Connections: Making Distance Learning Accessible to Everyone](#)" has an excellent list of resources that are useful to those who wish to research this topic further such as Accessibility in Distance Education, Applications of Universal Design, and Closing the Gap Resource Directory (The University of Washington, DO-IT, Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology).
- Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D., "[Equal Access. Universal Design of Distance Learning](#)" provides ten indicators of accessible distance learning programs (The University of Washington, DO-IT, Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology).