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## OLU Online Learning Update [Ray Schroeder](#), editor, [OTEL - University of Illinois at Springfield](#)

Online Learning News and Research



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BY FEEDBURNER

sitemeter  
455,493



**Saturday, June 22, 2002**

<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet18/res/lefoe.html>

### Recommendations for teaching in a distributed learning environment: The students' perspective

Geraldine Lefoe and John Hedberg, University of Wollongong  
Cathy Gunn, University of Auckland

The University of Wollongong opened a new campus and two new access centres on the south coast of NSW, Australia, in 2000. The combination of distance with limited funding, after seed funding was expended, has provided opportunities to rethink teaching and learning strategies. Competition from traditional distance education providers in the area meant that, strategically, Wollongong had to "think differently". This paper provides an overview of issues identified by students through an evaluation of the inaugural year of a flexibly delivered Arts degree in a distributed learning environment. Actions taken by the University to resolve the issues are outlined and recommendations for implementation from the students' perspective are proposed.

posted by Ray at 7:43 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.syllabus.com/fall2002/papers.asp>

### Call for Papers - Syllabus fall2002 November 3-5, 2002 - Boston Area

Final proposal deadline: July 31, 2002; Priority deadline: July 10, 2002

#### Conference Information

Syllabus will again bring leaders in education technology together in the Boston area in the Fall. The conference attracts faculty, administrators, and IT professionals who want to explore the latest applications of information technology in higher education institutions. It provides a collegial environment in which attendees can share experiences with campus IT, encounter exemplary implementations of new technologies for teaching as well as administration, and discover how new media are best integrated into the teaching and learning process.

posted by Ray at 7:41 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Friday, June 21, 2002**

<http://www.sj-r.com/news/Friday/f.htm>

### UIS online programs to get boost from grant

KELLY DAVENPORT, STAFF WRITER

In appropriate high-tech fashion, educators at the University of Illinois at Springfield zipped off e-mail messages to one another after receiving word of a \$500,000 grant that would allow the addition of six new online degrees. The announcement last week from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation resulted from a January application. It also came just as Chancellor Richard Ringeisen had cautioned that plans to add online programs could be put on hold because of state budget cuts. "We were elated," said Ray Schroeder, director of the Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning...

posted by Ray at 7:05 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.distance-educator.com/dnews/modules.php?>

[op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=6955](http://www.open.ac.uk/modload&name=News&file=article&sid=6955)

### Open University Pioneers Online Music Study

Source: The British Open University

The Open University (OU) is about to introduce the world's first postgraduate music courses taught in an online environment. The new suite of courses combine traditional OU teaching methods with the latest in new technology. As well as printed and audio material, students will have access to a unique and specially-created online music research environment. They will be able to search the web through hundreds of indexed routes, submit their essays electronically, have email access to tutorial support, and join in email conference sites with tutors and other students....

posted by Ray at 6:06 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.dailymail.com/news/News/200206055>

### States sign deal for online courses - W.Va. students will have access to Kentucky program

The Associated Press

West Virginians who want to go to community college soon will be able to take classes at home. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission signed an agreement Tuesday that allows 400 community and technical college students in West Virginia to access Kentucky's distance learning program. Thirty online academic and training courses will be administered through the Kentucky Virtual University beginning this fall....

posted by Ray at 6:03 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june02/bollen/06bollen.html>

### Evaluation of Digital Library Impact and User Communities by Analysis of Usage Patterns

Johan Bollen, Old Dominion University; Rick Luce, Los Alamos National

#### Abstract

At present, digital library (DL) policy is largely informed by management intuition and coarse measures of user satisfaction. Most DLs, however, maintain extensive server logs of user retrieval requests that contain a wealth of information on user preferences and the structure of user retrieval patterns. We propose a quantitative approach to DL evaluation that analyzes the retrieval habits of users to assess the impact of a collection of documents and to determine the structure of a given DL user community. We discuss a system that we have developed to automatically generate extensive journal and document networks from an efficient and simple analysis of user retrieval sequences registered in a particular DL's server logs....

posted by Ray at 5:55 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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[http://www.certmag.com/issues/jul02/feature\\_vallejo.cfm](http://www.certmag.com/issues/jul02/feature_vallejo.cfm)

### SIMULATIONS: VIRTUAL REALITY for Certification

Noel Vallejo

#### A Vision of the Future

You are the new site administrator for a major financial institution. Besides keeping the network running smoothly, you must battle an assortment of hackers, crackers and thieves whose goal is getting to your network data. There was a security breach only a month ago. Today you get alarming news: Network throughput to headquarters in New York is down by 42 percent; packet collisions are up by 113 percent across the LAN; server utilization is nearing 100 percent; disk space is low. You receive a security alert from your audit software indicating that permissions and rights have been modified on certain secure folders. You've got problem - a big problem. What if this was not only the cause of a full-scale migraine, but also part of your certification exam? Science fiction? Nope. In the not-too-distant future, certification exams will do more than give a percentage or indicate pass or fail on a single vendor's technology. Certifications will present real-world, problem-based

scenarios, measuring how many years of experience you have and testing the required skills in a heterogeneous environment. Current strides in simulation technology make all of this possible....

posted by Ray at 5:54 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Thursday, June 20, 2002**

[http://ccenter.uoregon.edu/conferences/necc2002/program/presenter\\_rp\\_pdfs/bellon.pdf](http://ccenter.uoregon.edu/conferences/necc2002/program/presenter_rp_pdfs/bellon.pdf)

**Best Practices in Cyberspace: Motivating the Online Learner**

Toni Bellon and Richard Oates, North Georgia College & State University

Abstract:

The purpose of this paper is to describe what we have learned about motivating online learners. Online instruction has presented teachers with new methods of instruction. At the same time, online instruction has the potential to depersonalize the teacher-student relationship and impede the teacher's ability to understand their students. This study attempts to begin translating the traditional classroom knowledge into "best practice" for the online environment. Over the past three years we collected evidence of personality types from students taking an online course. During the same years, students completed surveys concerning their preferences for a variety of course components. The results of this study suggest that student personalities do play a part in motivating the online learner. The study also suggests general ideas about each personality types' preferred instructional modes and provides suggestions for components to include within an online course....

posted by Ray at 6:24 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/020624/biztech/24elearning.htm>

**E-learn and earn**

James M. Pethokoukis

Director Steven Spielberg recently received his diploma from California State University-Long Beach after dropping out in 1968 to conquer Hollywood. A great example to dropouts everywhere though, unlike Spielberg, most students probably couldn't get their natural sciences professor to visit them at work. At least not in person. Through E-learning, however, college students can have instructors visit them via the Internet. They can download video and audio of lectures and attend class discussions through chat rooms and message boards. Whatever the quality of these E-courses, more and more people are taking advantage of their convenience. Online-learning enrollments are growing 33 percent a year and are expected to hit 2.2 million by 2004, according to International Data Corp. And a study by Bear Stearns found that 150 institutions offer undergraduate degrees online and that nearly 200 offer online graduate degrees....

posted by Ray at 6:22 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Wednesday, June 19, 2002**

[http://ccenter.uoregon.edu/conferences/necc2002/program/presenter\\_rp\\_pdfs/al-jarf.pdf](http://ccenter.uoregon.edu/conferences/necc2002/program/presenter_rp_pdfs/al-jarf.pdf)

**Effect of Online Learning on Struggling ESL College Writers**

Reima Sado Al-Jarf, King Saud University

Abstract

Two groups of freshman students participated in the experiment. They were enrolled in their first ESL writing course. Before instruction, both groups were pre-tested. They wrote an essay. Test results showed significant differences between both groups in writing ability. The experimental group made too many errors and had many writing problems. Both groups covered the same inclass material, assignments and assessment. In addition, the experimental group used a Blackboard online course from home. Experimental students posted their threads, wrote short paragraphs and posted stories and poems. They located information in sites like Yahoo Movies and webMD .

They word-processed their paragraphs and checked their spelling. At the end of the course, both groups were post-tested. They wrote an essay. ANCOVA results showed significant differences between both groups. The experimental group made more gains as a result of web-based instruction. They became more proficient, made few errors and could communicate easily and fluently. Descriptors: College writing, online learning, Second language learning, writing, web-based instruction, web-based learning....

posted by Ray at 6:05 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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[http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/167/learning/Online\\_ed\\_taking\\_off+.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/167/learning/Online_ed_taking_off+.shtml)

#### **Online ed taking off - Web convenience, flexibility attraction**

Agnes Blum, Globe Correspondent

When Mari Sayama's husband got a good job in Japan last year, she wanted to move there with him, but she also wanted to continue her studies at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. So she did both. Sayama, 33, joined the ranks of students pursuing degrees online. Despite the economic downturn, and the closure of many virtual universities because of management problems, online education is alive and well....

posted by Ray at 5:46 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://chronicle.com/free/2002/06/2002061901t.htm>

#### **Syria, Eyeing Advantages of Education, Opens a Virtual University**

DANIEL DEL CASTILLO

In just eight months, the government of Syria has built and opened the country's first electronic university, continuing a gradual move from a Soviet-style closed society to a more open, Western-oriented model. The new, state-owned institution, known as the Syrian Virtual University, has begun accepting students and plans to be operational for the fall semester with an enrollment of 600. The university will be entirely online. Administrators say it will eventually design its own content and grant degrees, which they hope will give it a pan-Arab appeal that will draw students from throughout the region. Initially, however, the university will act as a clearinghouse for courses from 20 American and European universities it has signed agreements with. Syrian students will use the facilities and advising network here, but will obtain degrees from the foreign institutions....

posted by Ray at 5:44 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Tuesday, June 18, 2002**

[http://www.trainingmag.com/training/reports\\_analysis/feature\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1514842](http://www.trainingmag.com/training/reports_analysis/feature_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1514842)

#### **Overcoming Student Learning Difficulties**

Robert S. Fleming, Rowan University

....There are students in our classes, who, while not learning disabled, face similar challenges. Their problems fall into the following categories: social skills, study skills, physical limitations, language problems, reading difficulties, writing difficulties and mathematics difficulties. As trainers, we tend to recognize the challenges we face in working with students with social-skill problems and physical limitations, but often overlook the other types of learning difficulties. The nature of a given course, the teaching methodologies used, and the course objectives will determine how significant a particular type of student learning difficulty will be. As trainers we must create a learning environment where students are able to confide in us when they struggle with learning difficulties....

posted by Ray at 6:21 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/17/technology/17LIBR.html>

### **Battle Over Access to Online Books**

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

When Internet song-sharing services created digital jukeboxes of free music, book publishers raced to bolt the door to their own archives of copyrighted works. Many librarians, on the other hand, thought the idea was pretty exciting. Now, new technologies are igniting a similar battle closer to home. Librarians have seized on the potential of digital technology and offered users free online access to the contents of books from their homes, and they are squaring off with publishers who fear that free remote access costs them book sales....

posted by Ray at 6:14 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Monday, June 17, 2002**

[http://business.cisco.com/app/tree.taf?asset\\_id=85775](http://business.cisco.com/app/tree.taf?asset_id=85775)

### **The New Classroom: Internet technologies are enhancing the learning environment, from the children's classroom to higher education and beyond.**

Samuel Greengard

#### Article Summary:

The Internet offers new, and sometimes more effective, ways to exchange information and knowledge. As a result, many institutions and companies are turning to the Web and e-learning to complement or replace traditional classroom instruction. They're also using the Internet to manage training and education more effectively. Schools, government agencies, business, and others seeking to improve learning are migrating online. They're finding that e-learning, portals, and other tools are making it possible to teach more effectively and better manage administrative processes. In some cases, these tools also help forge stronger community or constituency ties. Organizations that embrace e-learning and use the Internet to manage the business of education can reduce costs and improve the learning process. In many instances, they can avoid the expense of paper-based course materials, travel, and classrooms. They can also ensure that students learn more effectively through self-paced instruction and online feedback....

posted by Ray at 6:30 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.oudaily.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2002/06/13/3d0808009966d>

### **College awaits online degree programs**

Leah Barksdale - Oklahoma Daily Staff Writer

The College of Liberal Studies is waiting on the approval of the college's first-ever fully online degree programs. If the three degree programs are approved, they will be available during the spring 2003 semester and will allow liberal studies students to achieve their degree totally online. The three complete online degree programs include a bachelor's degree of liberal studies, a bachelor's degree of liberal studies-administrative leadership concentration, and a master's degree of liberal studies-administrative leadership....

posted by Ray at 6:18 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://ericit.org/digests/EDO-IR-2002-01.shtml>

### **Information Literacy Instruction in Higher Education Trends and Issues**

Abby Kasowitz-Scheer and Michael Pasqualoni

Students today face a daily explosion of information resources and the challenge of using these resources effectively and responsibly. Academic libraries worldwide have responded by providing instruction in information literacy, described as the ability to locate, manage, critically evaluate, and use information for problem solving, research, decision making, and continued professional

development (Orr, Appleton, & Wallin, 2001, p. 457). Information literacy instruction (ILI) requires a shift in focus from teaching specific information resources to a set of critical thinking skills involving the use of information. This change is reflected within the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, developed by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) (American Library Association, 2000). ILI in an academic setting includes a variety of instructional approaches, such as course-related library instruction sessions, course-integrated projects, online tutorials, and stand-alone courses (Spitzer, Eisenberg, & Lowe, 1998). Those running formal ILI programs consider curricular objectives, invoking combinations of instructional solutions over a period of time....

posted by Ray at 6:14 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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**Sunday, June 16, 2002**

<http://www.westga.edu/%7Edistance/ojdl/spring51/jones51.html>

**Faculty Philosophical Position Towards Distance Education: Competency, Value, and Educational Technology Support**

Edmund T. Jones, James R. Lindner, Tim H. Murphy, Kim E. Dooley; Texas A&M University

**Abstract**

As higher education attempts to meet the growing demand for courses delivered at a distance, identification of potential barriers to faculty acceptance and adoption are needed. The purpose of the study was to describe faculty perceptions with respect to distance education competence, value, and information technology support by philosophical position towards distance education. Of the three constructs, only value was found to be significantly related to the philosophical position towards distance education. Teachers not philosophically opposed had a higher perceived value of distance education. Efficient communication of the increasing value of distance education is needed. This information can help administrators, faculty, and institutions remain competitive and make decisions on strategic plans regarding distance education....

posted by Ray at 7:45 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.elearningmag.com/elearning/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=21259>

**Is Blended Best? - Thomson Learning studies the question**

Kim Kiser, e-learning Magazine

Blended learning has garnered plenty of buzz at e-learning conferences and on training-related listservs, but can it create a more productive workforce than online learning alone? It can, according to a two-year study by Thomson Learning. Launched in 1999, the study compared the results of three sets of learners. The first were taught to use Microsoft Excel with a mix of online content and simulations, text materials, assistance from mentors, and classroom-based training. The second group took an online course. The third group-the control group-received no training. Altogether, 128 learners from industry and higher education participated in the study....

posted by Ray at 6:45 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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<http://www.elearningmag.com/elearning/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=21250>

**Your Assignment: Investigate Learners**

Elliott Masie, e-learning Magazine

You have homework! Yes, I'm using my role as a contributing editor to give you readers an assignment. To get an "A" in this class, you must do an hour of work during the next month. Your mission: find out how people in your organization learn. In our roles as learning and training professionals, it's quite easy to make sweeping assumptions about our colleagues' learning styles and preferences. Instead, I want you to do the following.

1. Select five to 10 people in your organization.
2. Ask them three questions...

posted by Ray at 6:39 AM [permanent item link](#) [\(0\) comments](#)

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