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Distance Education in Public Health

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January 1998 through October 2003

471 Citations

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2003 December

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Sample Citations

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An availability statement follows many journal article citations. This statement contains an Internet hyperlink to the citation in the NLM PubMed retrieval system. The PubMed record includes an abstract for most articles and may also provide a link to the publisher's Internet site.

Journal Article:

Example:

Kenyon M, Chevalier C, Gagahe V, Sisiolo R. The community in the classroom: designing a distance education community health course for nurses in Solomon Islands. *Pac Health Dialog*. 2000 Sep;7(2):76-80. Available from: [PubMed: PMID 11588931](#)

Order, with separating punctuation:

Author 1, Author 2, Author 3. Article Title. Abbreviated Journal Title. Date;Volume(Issue):Pages. Availability.

Monograph:

Example:

Novotny J, editor. Distance education in nursing. New York (NY): Springer; 2000. 256 p.

Order, with separating punctuation:

Author 1, Author 2, Author 3. Monograph Title: Subtitle. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date of Publication. Total Number of Pages.

* For details of the formats used for references, see the following publications:

Patrias, Karen. *National Library of Medicine recommended formats for bibliographic citation*. Bethesda (MD): The Library; 1991 Apr. Available from: [pubs/formats/recommendedformats.html](#)

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Introduction

Distance Education in Public Health

Teaching at a distance is not a new concept. Correspondence courses have been in existence for years. However, technological advances have expanded the education and training opportunities available to students, especially practitioners in the field.

The evolution of information technology is the single most important factor in the explosive growth, and acceptance of, distance education. The number of courses offered at a distance continues to grow exponentially. In 1995 a few schools offered a limited number of such courses. Today, thanks in large part to the Internet, the vast majority of institutes of higher education offer distance-based courses. These include both undergraduate and graduate programs. Beyond the distance-based educational programs offered by accredited schools, businesses and non-accredited programs have formed to sell courses and instructional materials in health-related as well as other subject areas.

E-learning is clearly in ascendancy. As a result, individuals around the world can further their education through online courses and degrees, satellite broadcasts, and audio taped lectures. Learning can now take place virtually anytime and anywhere.

As technologies expand and we become more comfortable with their uses, we are discovering issues that demand further study. This bibliography has been compiled to explore these issues, as well as to help define and describe the evidence base for advancing distance-based training programs. For purposes of the bibliography, we have defined distance education as "education designed for learners who live at a distance from the teaching institution or education provider. It is the enrollment and study with an educational institution that provides organized, formal learning opportunities for students. Presented in a sequential and logical order, the instruction is offered wholly or primarily by distance study, through virtually any media."*

The current attention to homeland security and the threat of emerging infectious diseases have dramatized the need to have a public health workforce that is equal to the challenges of terrorism and other emerging public health threats. Distance education is an important tool in preparing the workforce now. It is the method by which health professionals can participate in a journey of lifelong education.

In compiling the bibliography, a variety of databases as well as the Internet were searched for articles published within the past 6 years. Over 1000 citations were retrieved and reviewed. References are arranged into seven broad subject categories: Administration and Management; Evaluation; Legal/Regulatory Issues; Technology; Target Audiences; Library Services; and Web Resources. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. It is intended to introduce the user to some of the major issues within distance education and lead to additional inquiry. Generally, articles in foreign languages, letters to the editor, editorials, and non-health related articles were not included. However, a few general distance education directories and articles on library services to support distance education programs are included.

We hope that this bibliography will provide a foundation for future studies in distance education and lead others to identify issues and work to make distance education accessible to all.

The compilers wish to thank Lone Auston for conceiving of the bibliography, Craig Locatis for his help in setting the initial scope, and Mary Ryan for her searching and coding assistance.

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First published: 29 December 2003

Last updated: 16 November 2006

Date Archived: 14 December 2006

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