

(updated December 17, 2007)

DISTANCE EDUCATION RESOURCES

This list includes both Canadian and non-Canadian (mostly U.S.) resources. Though references to state/provincial guidelines and statistics may not always be relevant, the suggestions and advice tend to have universal application to distance education programs.

ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

ADEC

<http://www.adventistedu.org/>

The **Adventist Digital Education Consortium** is a group of 13 Seventh-day Adventist affiliated colleges and universities in North America. The mission of the Consortium is to facilitate collaboration to enhance Christian education among member institutions with the aid of digital technology.

ADEC

www.adec.edu

The **American Distance Education Consortium** is a non-profit distance education consortium composed of approximately 65 state universities and land-grant colleges. The consortium was conceived and developed to promote the creation and provision of high quality, economical distance education programs and services to diverse audiences, by the land grant community of colleges and universities, through the most appropriate information technologies available.

ALN

www.aln.org

The purpose of the **Asynchronous Learning Network** at the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is to help learning organizations continually improve quality, scale, and breadth of their online programs, according to their own distinctive missions, so that education will become a part of everyday life, accessible and affordable for anyone, anywhere, at any time, in a wide variety of disciplines. Created with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Sloan-C encourages the collaborative sharing of knowledge and effective practices to improve online education in learning effectiveness, access, affordability for learners and providers, and student and faculty satisfaction.

AVLN

<http://www.avln.org/>

Adventist Virtual Learning Network is a volunteer group of professionals who share a vision for greater collaboration among Seventh-day Adventists. Previously known as AVLL- Adventist Virtual Learning Laboratory, the group recently formalized into a non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote global online collaboration for life-long learning among Seventh-day Adventists and other faith-based organizations.

BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/independentschools/bc_guide/dl_program.htm

This Ministry of Education site provides an excellent example of the legislation and guidelines for offering a distributed learning program in independent schools.

CIDER

<http://cider.athabascau.ca/>

The **Canadian Institute of Distance Education Research** is located at Athabasca University - Canada's Open University and is directly associated with Athabasca's Centre for Distance Education . CIDER's research scope is broad, ranging from learning and teaching application, financial and issues of access, the strategic use of technology in distance education settings, and other factors that may influence distance education in Canada. CIDER offers its Fellow, Students, and Others interested in distance education research, a range of services, resources, and publications. Most importantly, CIDER strives to support an active Community of Practice among distance education researchers. CIDER also provides a voice for policy formulation and development, and comprehensive distance learning planning based on sound research that takes real education contents into consideration. CIDER seeks to be the central source for distance education research in Canada.

CNIE

<http://www.cade-aced.ca/>

The **Canadian Network for Innovation in Education** is a national organization of professionals committed to excellence in the provision of innovation in education in Canada.

ICDE

<http://www.icde.org/>

International Council for Open and Distance Education is recognized by the United Nations (UNESCO), and serves as the Global Umbrella Membership Organization in Online, Flexible and Blended Learning, including e-learning and distance education. We provide a global network for the institutions around the world that are involved in this field and are members of ICDE. An important aim of ICDE is to promote intercultural co-operation and understanding through flexible and online learning throughout the world.

ICDL

<http://www-icdl.open.ac.uk/>

The **International Center for Distance Learning** provides a literature database which contains bibliographic information on over 12,000 books, journal articles, research reports, conference papers, dissertations and other types of literature relating to all aspects of the theory and practice of distance education.

NACOL

<http://www.nacol.org/>

The mission of the **North American Council for Online Learning** is to increase educational opportunities and enhance learning by providing collegial expertise and leadership in K-12 online teaching and learning. Due to the rapid development in the field of K-12 online learning, the North American Council for Online Learning was launched as a formal corporate entity, in September 2003, as an international K-12 non-profit organization representing the interests of administrators, practitioners, and students involved in online learning in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The express purpose of the organization is to facilitate collaboration, advocacy, and research to enhance quality K-12 online learning.

USDLA

<http://www.usdla.org>

The **United States Distance Learning Association** is a nonprofit organization formed in 1987. The association's purpose is to promote the development and application of distance learning for education and training. The constituents we serve include Pre-K through grade 12 education, higher education, home school education, continuing education, corporate training, military and government training, and telemedicine. USDLA is committed to being the leading distance learning association in the United States. USDLA serves the needs of the distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking and opportunity.

PUBLICATIONS

American Journal of Distance Education

www.ajde.com

AJDE is the internationally recognized journal of research and scholarship in the field of American distance education.

Assessing learners online by A. Oosterhof, R-M Conrad and D.P. Ely (2007).
Pearson.

This recently published book provides excellent guidance for rigorous online assessment that takes advantage of the media and modes of teaching online, but it does not specifically focus on K-12 education.

eSchool News Online

www.eschoolnews.com

Includes several publications:

- ***eCampus News***: Focuses on the technology of higher education.
- ***eSchool News This Week***: The week's top education technology news, the latest grants, and how schools are solving technology problems to improve learning.
- ***eSchool News Today***: daily breaking news headlines
- ***Inside eSchool News***: the latest resources and tips to all the online print news and information
- ***Tools for Schools***: the latest technology tips, tools and the innovative best practices schools are using everyday to improve learning.
- ***Classroom News*** (PDF edition): a monthly newsletter covering all the latest technology news and resources for the classroom, and online access.

Subscribe to **eSchool News** at: <https://www.eschoolnews.com/freeesn/index.cfm>

Essential Elements. Prepare, Design, and Teach Your Online Course by B. Erlbaum, C. McIntyre and A. Smith (2002). Atwood Publishing.

This is an easy to use guide for web-based teaching that comes from the developers of the first Virtual High School.

Facilitating Online Learning Effective Strategies for Moderators, G. Collison, et al, (2000). Atwood Publishing.

This handbook describes strategies and skills for moderating online discussions.

Journal of Distance Education

<http://www.jofde.ca/>

JDE is an international publication of the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education (CNIE). It aims to promote and encourage Canadian scholarly work in distance education and provide a forum for the dissemination of international scholarship. The full text online (and free) versions of articles from all the back issues of the long-established Journal of Distance Education can be found at: <http://www.cade-aced.ca> (select "publications")

Learning and Leading with Technology.

ISTE's journal, has published a range of articles on virtual schooling and online learning, particularly in 2007.

Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration

[jmain11.html](#)

This journal is a peer-reviewed electronic journal offered free each quarter over the World Wide Web. The journal welcomes manuscripts based on original work of practitioners and researchers with specific focus or implications for the management of distance education programs.

Online Professional Development for Teachers: Emerging Models and Methods, Dede, C. (Ed.) (2006). Harvard Education Press.

This is a product from Harvard's Usable Knowledge Invitational Conference and is one of the only resources that looks closely at exemplary online professional development programs, compares them carefully with one another and draws helpful conclusions about them. Although, the focus is not online professional development for virtual education, the observations about online professional development are useful for all online professional development programs.

TechLearning News

http://techlearning.com/content/about/tl_sub.php

This weekly update is produced by Technology & Learning and TechLEARNING.com. It features education news and articles and includes a varied collection of tips, advice, grants, and other information designed for anyone in a school or district who integrates technology or supports it for use in classroom instruction or

administration. Sign up for this free newsletter and others at:
<http://app.campaignerpro.com/CampaignerPro/public/form.aspx?fid=34630>

The Virtual High School: Teaching Generation V, by A. Zucker and R. Kozma with others (2003). Teachers College Press.

It tells the story of the development of the first Virtual High School in the U.S.

RESOURCES/WEBSITES

Cathy Cavanaugh's Online Learning Research References

http://drscavanaugh.org/distlearn/research_references.htm

Dr. Cavanaugh, NACOL Research Committee Chair, has an excellent and comprehensive website listing books, articles and journals for online learning.

Delivery Software

<http://www.marshall.edu/distanceeducation>

This site provides a comparison of online course delivery software products. More than 20 different online delivery software products are reviewed. The reviews are categorized by developmental features, instructor tools, technical support, administrator tools, administrative features, software costs, and hardware costs.

Distance Learning Evaluation Guide

<http://www.acenet.edu/bookstore/>

Published by the American Council on Education, this guide provides a checklist for organizations to use in evaluating the quality of their distance learning programs, courses, and modules.

Laboratories of reform: Virtual High Schools and innovation in public education by Bill Tucker (2007). Education Sector Reports.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Virtual_Schools.pdf

NACOL Issues Brief: Equity and Access in Virtual Education (2007) by Ray Rose and Bob Blomeyer

Identifies the issues that also impact professional development.

NACOL National Standards for Online Courses:

<http://www.nacol.org/nationalstandards/>

NACOL conducted a comprehensive review of course standards available. Based on this review, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Standards for Quality Online Courses, used by the 16 states in the southern United States was adopted as the source for the NACOL National Standards for Quality for Online Courses. NACOL added a standard to include 21st Century Skills.

School CIO

<http://www.schoolcio.com/>

School CIO provides high-quality ideas, strategies, and resources for senior-level technology leaders in K-12 school districts. Their mission is to help school technology

professionals manage IT more effectively and efficiently, drive educational innovation, and advance their careers. First published in 2004, School CIO is produced by the editors of Technology & Learning, the leading publication in the education technology market for over 25 years, and techLEARNING, the essential online resource for technology-using educators, distributed learning, asynchronous learning and blended learning.

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). (2006d). *Online teaching evaluation tool.*

<http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/pubs/2006Pubs/OnlineTeachingEvaluationSV S.asp>

Sloan Foundation: *K-12 Online Learning: A Survey of U.S. District Administrators*

Technology and Learning Network (TLN)

<http://www.techlearning.com/>

The Technology & Learning Network encompasses Technology & Learning magazine, techlearning.com, and Technology & Learning Events. These companion media offer online, conference, and print avenues for providing administrators, technology professionals, and teachers with comprehensive, relevant, and authoritative information on technology trends, new products, news, and funding sources for their technology programs. TLN is a full-spectrum education technology resource for education technology leaders.

21st Century Connections

<http://21centuryconnections.com/>

This 21st Century Connections site links students, teachers and administrators to the latest resources, creative tools and educational leaders behind digital learning. Provided by Lenovo, Adobe, Intel and Futurekids, the site is hosted by Technology & Learning, NewBay Medi.

Virtual School Clearing House

<http://vs.education.ufl.edu/virtualschool/>

A web site documenting collaborative research in this area sponsored in the nine state AT&T regions.

Virtual Schools and 21st Century Skills paper by NACOL and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (2006). NACOL reports.

<http://www.nacol.org/docs/VSand21stCenturySkillsFINALPaper.pdf>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The number of resources available to support professional development and preservice teacher education in this field is growing. Although the list of resources below has been arranged under topics, many of these resources have multiple purposes and audiences, or may be adapted for wider use. The list starts with professional development programs that have already been developed for teachers and VS site facilitators.

Programs of in-service professional development for virtual schooling

The following are examples of professional development created to support virtual schooling. Some professional development is specifically related to the virtual school offering the course to VS site facilitators, counselors and/or teachers:

Boise State University has a range of professional development for staff in collaborating virtual schools.
<http://edtech.boisestate.edu/courses.htm>

Florida Virtual School has training materials for school counselors and VS site facilitators working with FVS. It also has a training program for its teachers. Some of these resources have also proved to be useful within preservice programs.
http://www.flvs.net/products_services/p_s_course_demos.php

Iowa Learning Online has developed a course for its VS site facilitators who are called ILO coaches. They have also developed courses to induct teachers new to teaching online.
<http://www.iowalearningonline.org/>

Plymouth State University in collaboration with VHS has a range of professional development for VHS staff and also for others.
<http://www.govhs.org/Pages/ProfDev-Home>

Curriculum resources for use in professional development

The range of resources developed for virtual schooling includes handbooks and multimedia materials several of which are disseminated through NACOL and its partners:

NACOL National Primer on K-12 Online Learning, by John Watson (May 2007). The NACOL National Primer report provides answers to the many basic questions about online learning and is a helpful guide for administrators, teachers and parents.

The SREB Educational Technology Cooperative and SREB Online Learning Website provides up-to-date information and resources about K-20 initiatives, projects and publications that are related to online learning and state virtual schools.
<http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/OnlineLearning/index.asp>

The National Education Association *Guide to Online Teaching* is a useful introduction. It includes an overview of online education with some detail about preparing and supporting online teachers, including future teachers, plus recommendations for 19 skills of online teachers.
<http://www.nea.org/technology/images/onlineteachguide.pdf>

Southern Regional Education Board (2003). Essential principles of high-quality online teaching: Guidelines for evaluation of K-12 online teachers underpins the NEA guide.
http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/pubs/PDF/Essential_Principles.pdf

Kearsley, G., & Blomeyer, R. (2003). Preparing K-12 teachers to teach online.
<http://home.sprynet.com/~gkearsley/TeachingOnline.htm>

Resources developed for preservice teacher education

Resources from the TEGIVS project supported by FIPSE include a linked and categorized list of demo courses, labs for secondary and elementary preservice teacher education, multimedia resources and reading for methods courses and pre-student teaching field experience. Particularly useful for preservice teacher education
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~vschool/>

Case studies and guidance for practical and lab activities in online education that originally guided to establishment of Iowa Learning Online.
<http://ctlit.iastate.edu:16080/~tegivs/vhs/>

Curriculum resources for use in higher education faculty development

There is a wide range of resources developed for higher education flexible and distance learning. Caution is required when adapting their use to K-12 distance education, including online learning.

Faculty Development Process. A four-stage faculty development process, created by State University of New York Learning Network, leads to high faculty satisfaction with teaching online.

http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=15

Guiding Principles for Faculty in Distance learning from Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education creates guidelines that institutions can use to help faculty members teach courses online

http://www.ihets.org/archive/progserv_arc/education_arc/distance_arc/guiding_principles_arc/index.html

Training for Online Teaching, University of Nebraska
http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=52

Learning to Teach Online Program

http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=42

Supporting Online Adjunct Faculty: An Online Mentoring Program

http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=48

Online Faculty Development Workshops, University of Maryland

http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=55

Comprehensive Online Training Course for Online Teaching, University of Maryland

http://www.sloan-c.org/effective/details4.asp?FS_ID=56