

Library Services for Distance Learners: The evolving roles of librarians in the Digital Environment

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Topics to discuss

- Distance Learning and Its Development
- Distance Learning in SEA and Indonesia
- Distance Learning and Library
- Other Services to Support Distance Learning
- Closing Notes



Distance Learning?



Doesn't mean this . . .

But . . . Distance Learning?



First Generation of Distance Learning (print generation)

- Happened in the 1950s and 1970s
- Students got the materials via mails
- Students did self-study
- One-way of communication

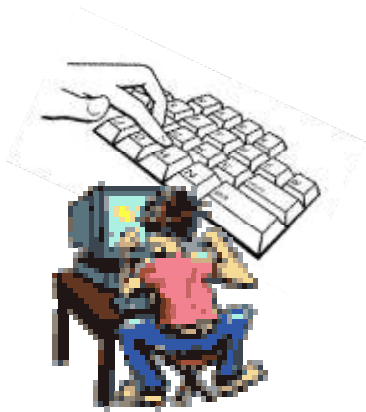




Second generation (electronic generation)

- Heard/watched the faculty did the presentation via radio/television
- Materials sent through mails
- One-way communication
- The presence of faculty on radio/television



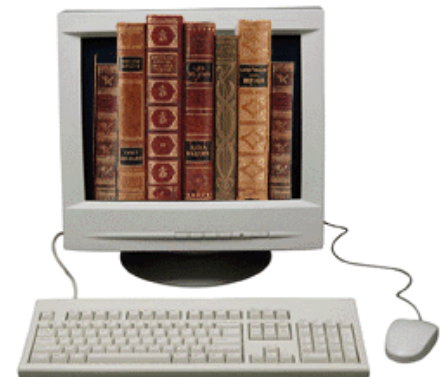


Third generation (end of 1990s/2000s)

- Direct interaction in real time
- Using audio and video
- Application of student-centric method

IT and Off/On-campus Learning

- Blurred (except one missing aspect: feeling)
- IT also brings the learner and another closer
- Learners and library interaction easier



Are we ready for the
library of the future?

Distance Learning and IT (the weak side)

- Lack of IT skills among learners
- Hidden cost
- Lack of immediate feedback
- Oral communication limitation



Distance Learning and IT (strength)

- No need to waste time
- No need to consider the distance
- Flexibility for those with irregular work schedules
- Accessible for those with physical mobility problems



Distance Learning: Perspectives of Asia

- Distance learning in China has the largest number of enrolment
- Korea has also graduated 300,000 students
- Rapid development of IT has been anticipated for distance learning education

Distance Learning in Indonesia

Open University

- Universitas Terbuka (Open University)
- 45th state university in Indonesia that applies only distance learning.
- Established in 1984 and accepts high school graduates and employees.
- No age limit, time limit & drop out system.
- Currently, 460,000 undergraduates and will open graduate studies this coming year.

Distance Learning Center



Library Services & Distance Learning

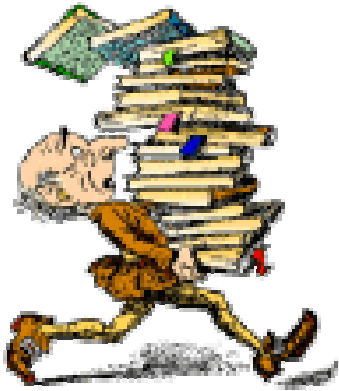
Three aspects of Distance Learning Library Services:

- Library materials
- Library services
- Library as a place

Library as a place for distance learning

- Library may function as a place for distance learning
- University Library as a place for thesis or dissertation oral exam
- Library as a place for video conference
- Library as a place for helpdesk & assistance

Importance of library materials in digital format



- Library materials in the digital format enable the learners to download and read without any problems of time and distance

Importance of librarians and virtual librarians

- Interaction of distance learning students and librarians may be done with the presence of a librarian in the library and provides information through audio and video chat
- Virtual librarians are also helpful (avatar) as to give understanding of access to library materials



Library Services & Distance Learning:

Concluding Notes:

- Librarians should be available for direct online contact, locating materials, providing information, contacting other libraries etc.
- Librarians should be capable of technical skills related to IT.
- Be prepared for a role model for self-help podcast.
- Webcam communication may be another way of communicating with a librarian.



Library Services & Distance Learning:

Concluding Notes:

- Library materials: downloadable, networked
- Library services: online access, real time chat, multimedia self-help
- Library as a place: video conference oral exam, online test, interview, supervising



Thank You!

