Distance Education and Web-based Training

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by

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Foreword

The Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education (ERIC/ACVE) is 1 of 16 clearinghouses in a national information system that is funded by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education. This paper was developed to fulfill one of the functions of the clearinghouse—interpreting the literature in the ERIC database. This paper should be of interest to adult, career, and vocational educators and trainers.

ERIC/ACVE would like to thank Bettina Lankard Brown for her work in preparing this paper. Ms. Brown, a Program Associate at the Center on Education and Training for Employment, is the career education specialist for ERIC/ACVE. She has more than 25 years of experience in writing and designing curriculum products and instructional materials, including multimedia.

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Executive Summary

Communications technologies are changing the time, place, and form of learning and instructional delivery. This publication presents a compilation of information about technologies used for distance education and web-based training for practitioners in adult, career, and vocational education. It focuses on the use of technology as—

- An instructional tool that expands classroom walls and enables the delivery of specialized training in workplaces
- A facilitator of learning based on constructivist theory, supporting cognitive development and equitable learning environments
- A strategy for development through interactive communication, critical thinking, and authentic assessment

The publication includes reprints of selected articles that explore these topics in more depth: the virtual campus, learning styles and electronic information, technology and adult learning, information management, ethical considerations in online learning, and cultural sensitivity toward diverse online learners.

Information on the topics in this paper may be found in the ERIC database using the following descriptors—*Constructivism (Learning), Corporate Education, Delivery Systems, *Distance Education, Educational Innovation, *Educational Technology, Internet, Telecommunications, *Training, *World Wide Web, and the identifier *Intranets. A sterisks indicate terms that are particularly relevant.