Historical perspective comparison of distance education

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| **Comparison element** | USA | Great Brittan |
| **Events** | * 1873 – Anna Ticknor founded home study through monthly correspondence * 1883-1891 – academic degrees earned in New York through correspondence courses * 1890 – University of Chicago created first extension division. * 1901 – Moody Bible Institute formed correspondence department that still runs today * 1950 - Iowa State University became the first educational television broadcaster in the world. * 1971 – New York State Empire State College started USA’s first open university | * 1840 – Isaac Pitman offers shorthand instruction via correspondence * 1878 – Skerry’s College founded, a correspondence institution * 1887 – University Correspondence College in London * 1971 – Founding of the Open University of the United Kingdom * 2008 – London school was first to use virtual scenarios in immersive environment training |
| **Factors driving growth of distance education** | * More people were moving out of the large main cities and forming smaller towns that may not have been equipped with local learning institutions, yet. * World War I and II rapidly developed technology for training, later used in civilian education * Rising cost of traditional resident education * Increasingly mobile population * Necessity of quickly learning new competencies to retain jobs | * Working class gaining knowledge and power to change their positions in society. * Due to industrial revolution, the working class had more time to devote to study, even if they couldn’t physically go to school. * World War I and II rapidly developed technology for training, later used in civilian education * Necessity of quickly learning new competencies to retain jobs |
| **Issues / Concerns** | * Illinois Wesleyan shut down due to quality concerns * University of Wisconsin experienced faculty and public lack of interest * Drop out rate is higher than with a traditional institution. | * New pedagogical models * Standard quality for correspondence educators. * As England’s e-learning tends to be more international, cultural diversity needs to be considered |
| **Technological advances** | * Radio stations, broadcast television, satellite, fiber-optic, internet, personal computers, MOOCs | * Audio recordings, electronic laboratory kits, radio stations, broadcast television, satellite, fiber-optic, internet, personal computers, MOOCs |

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