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
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| **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
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| **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
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| **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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