

## Historical Perspectives on the Global View

This section briefly outlines the historical development of distance education in the United States (US), and contrasts it with its development in Great Britain. The table below depicts the historical development of distance education with comparisons between both countries.

The first widespread use of distance education occurred with the development of reliable postal mail service in the 1800's. This came in the form of correspondence courses both in the US and Great Britain. After which educational radio stations received licenses to deliver distance education courses in the US. Television also played a role in distance education, and by the 1930's educational television programs were being broadcasted. Cable and Satellite television delivery of educational programs began in the 1980's and focus quickly shifted to fiber-optic communications because it allowed for the expansion of live, two-way, high quality audio and video systems. However, because of the high cost of fiber-optic systems, distance education turned towards computer mediated communications. Finally, in the mid-80's, with the explosive growth of the Internet, both credit and non-credit courses started being offered online.

Overall, there seemed to be more factors in the US that contributed and drove the expansion of distance education from a social, economical and political stand point. However, Open University changed the way distance education was practiced all over the world. One of the largest, most influential Open Universities was founded in Great Britain, not in the US (Simonson, Smaldino, Albright & Zvacek, 2011). On the other hand, most of the major technological advancements occurred in the US.

## Brief Summary of the Historical Development of Distance Education for the United States and Great Britain

Developments	United States	Great Britain
<b>Correspondence Study</b>	<p><b>1800s</b> - Frederick Jackson Turner ran correspondence program for the University of Wisconsin late 1800s.</p> <p><b>1873</b> – Anna Ticknor created society to encourage studies at home for women of all classes.</p> <p><b>1891</b> – Thomas J. Foster began correspondence course in mining.</p> <p><b>1901</b> – Moody Bible Institute formed correspondence department</p>	<p><b>1840</b> - Sir Issac Pitman is credited with inventing correspondence courses by mail, which represented the first phase of distance education.</p> <p><b>1843</b> – Phonographic Correspondence Society created</p> <p><b>1878</b> – Skerry’s College in Edinburgh</p> <p><b>1887</b> – University Correspondence College in London</p>
<b>Electronic Communications</b>	<p><b>1920’s</b> - Federal government issued the first educational radio licenses to deliver distance education courses.</p> <p><b>1930’s</b> - The world's first educational television programs were broadcast from the University of Iowa.</p> <p><b>1980’s</b> - The first state educational satellite system, Learn/Alaska, offered six hours of instruction daily to 100 villages.</p>	
<b>Distance Universities</b>	<p><b>1971</b> – New York State’s Empire State College (NYSES), first US open university.</p>	<p><b>1969</b> - United Kingdom's Open University (OU) was founded.</p>
<b>Contributing Factors to Expansion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of reliable postal mail service systems</li> <li>• University extension movement</li> <li>• World War I and II</li> <li>• Educational opportunities for women and their participation</li> <li>• Escalating cost of traditional education</li> <li>• University expansion of programs</li> <li>• Growth of career-oriented activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of reliable postal mail service systems</li> <li>• Invention of Phonograph</li> <li>• University extension movement</li> <li>• World War I and II</li> </ul>
<b>Technological</b>	<p>Instructional Radio Television Cable and Satellite</p>	<p>Instructional Radio Television Computer</p>

<b>Developments</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>
<b>Advancements</b>	Computer Fiber-optic Internet Advancement in telecommunications & computer technologies	Internet

## References

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Nasseh, B., (1997). A Brief History of Distance Education. Retrieved from <http://www.seniornet.org/edu/art/history.html>

Simonson, M., Smaldino, S., Albright, M., & Zvacek, S. (2011) Teaching and Learning at a Distance: Foundations of Distance Education (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA. Pearson Education, Inc.