

PAPER:

***INTERNET DELIVERY FOR VET SECTOR STUDENTS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

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Abstract:

Distance education students in a B. Ed (In-service) Education and Training of Adults strand, traditionally serviced by standard distance education techniques, including print media and telephone conference, were offered the opportunity to participate in a new learning experience using the Internet.

A team of academics and IT staff modified a set of management subjects to run on a dedicated web page. The text-based materials were still distributed to students in advance, and an initial telephone conference was used to describe to students how the Internet delivery would be used, particularly the threaded web chat page. Written information was provided to assist students to access the Internet and the dedicated web page. Initially, students were reluctant to comment on the chat page and then, very slowly and prompted by examples of hyper-linked web resources, questions and ice-breakers from the academic staff, responses started to appear. An initial web conference was scheduled for local and international students and students finally began to discuss questions among themselves and offer help to one-another. This was what the team had been waiting for, but it had been a long time coming!