

COL orchestrated sessions

Please complete the following proforma as far as possible and return to pcf5@london.ac.uk by 10th March 2008.

Title of session:

How can the learning needs of all young people be met through the innovative use of Technology?

Name of COL Staff Leader/s:

Frances Ferreira: COL, Education Specialist, Basic Education and Open Schooling

Chair or leader of session (if different from 2) - with position and title: Same as 2

Length of session required: 90 minutes

Names of other planned contributors:

R. Randy McLeod
Gordon Naidoo

Equipment/computer access required (other than standard PowerPoint etc):

Standard PowerPoint provision

Ideal lay out of room:

Room should be able to accommodate 4 groups during the discussion session.

Hoped for numbers of participants: 50-60

Other information:

Revised abstract for web site and printed programme (max 300 words)

Learning at a distance offers opportunities for quality, highly interactive and affordable education for everyone. Two interactive educational models in South Africa and Canada will be exploring how a combination of approaches can ensure that the learning needs and styles of all young people are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and technologies anytime, anywhere.

The delivery modes, whether synchronous or asynchronous, create a “classroom chemistry” that ensures children develop independent learning skills while becoming actively engaged in their own learning. In addition, the students are developing technological literacy in preparation for possible post-secondary education. These interactive models, while extending the classroom walls, offer an attainable quality educational environment which is vibrant, engaging and fun-filled. The learners in this dynamic environment anticipate being part of an ever-changing educational context.

In South Africa, the Open Learning System Education Trust (OLSET) through its flagship project, the South African Radio Learning Programme, sought to provide as a major objective, national access to quality educational programming that was innovative, participatory and exciting for young learners, and a meaningful departure from traditional teacher centered pedagogy. The OLSET ‘English in Action’ broadcasts for classroom teaching support were designed to be highly interactive, supportive of a shift in teaching practice, while allowing children to become active participants in their learning.

In Saskatchewan, Canada, Distance Education combined an on-line learning content management system and a satellite-distributed televised network (Saskatchewan Communications Network, SCN) with a face-to-face classroom environment. Classes were recorded and available through video streaming, via the internet, enabling all students (regardless of location or time of day) to view and interact in classes live or in an archived mode. With links to multiple websites, students enrich their understanding, review key concepts, or find alternate approaches to solving problems. Teachers and students communicate via electronic mail, message and discussion boards, and/or virtual classrooms for assistance at anytime, from any location with internet access.