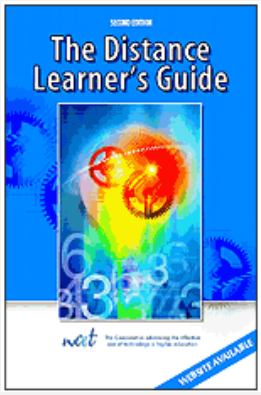
Book: *Distance Learner's Guide*

Link: http://www.wcet.info/dlguide/index.asp

Description: The *Distance Learner's Guide* is available for purchase from Pearson–Prentice Hall, but even without spending a penny, this companion website provides five chapters' worth of useful links for distance learners. Click the tabs at the top of the page to access a wealth of information!



Chapter 1, "Course and Program Directories" contains links to help distance learners find programs from colleges, universities, and certificate programs. Chapter 2 is "Choosing a Distance Education Provider: Asking the Right Questions." The links take learners to accrediting agencies and a particularly useful site from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation that discusses the problem of "degree mills" and "accreditation mills." This article is a must-read for anyone with any doubts about a particular program's legitimacy. Chapter 3, "The Role of the Computer in Distance Learning: Succeeding Online," offers links to Web research materials, tutorials, and sites that help new learners get up to speed on technology such as email, browsers, search engines, and other Internet tools useful for distance learners.

Chapter 4, "The Distance Learner's Library: The Indispensable Guide to Finding Quality Resources," is a list of resources for those conducting research on the Internet. Included are search tools, search sites, digital collections of books, academic libraries, and seven sites that require a fee but that some learners may find useful. Chapter 5 is "Understanding Your Needs: Overcoming the Personal Barriers to Success in Distance Learning." This chapter refers learners to sites containing guides for college students and books that help with setting goals and maintaining health. **Of particular usefulness are the two sections in this chapter entitled "Disabilities and Distance Learning" and "FYI: The Law Regarding Accommodating Students with Disabilities."** Finally, chapter 6's links refer learners to writing guides, computer-literacy training, study skills and strategies, distance-learning statistics, and cognitive mapping information.

Reference: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technologies (Eds.). (2004). *Distance learner's guide.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Link to online site: http://www.wcet.info/dlguide/ch4.asp