Stages of Distance Education Advanced by Technology at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies

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Status: Sick and will not be able to present in person today. Sorry!

The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies has been the pioneer in distance education at URI.

From early 1980s to the present, all faculty members drove to teach students in New England: Boston, New Hampshire, Woonsocket. At present, GSLIS still have full-time or adjunct faculty members teaching GSLIS students on these two sites New Hampshire and Woonsocket in addition to many online courses via Sakai.

From the late 1990s, GSLIS pioneered in PictureTel technology to deliver courses from Kingston to University of New Hampshire. LSC505 Organization of Information was the first one to reach UNH campus by PictureTel. Dr. Yan Ma delivered this course assisted by Mr. Timothy Tierney and Mary Jane Palm.

With assistance by Mr. Timothy Tierney, GSLIS pioneered in the new technology to deliver courses to students in the region by PolyCom technology. LSC505 Organization of Information taught by Dr. Ma was the first one to reach the students at the University of New Hampshire campus by PolyCom.

In the 2000s, GSLIS was also the pioneer in using WebCT to deliver complete and blended courses to the students in the regional campuses.

GSLIS again was the pioneer in migrating from WebCT to Sakai system to deliver complete and blended courses via Sakai.

GSLIS is also a pioneer in streaming video delivery of courses. With the assistance by Mr. Timothy Tierney, the Instructional Technology and Media Services, OSHEAN, and Graduate Assistants, the first complete streamed video course was developed at URI. GSLIS pioneered the first streamed video course taught by Dr. Yan Ma. Because of the nature and content of LSC505 Organization of Information, online delivery with no streamed video, the content was not able to be fully presented/delivered well before streaming video supplement.

Since 2012, GSLIS also pioneered in online interactive content delivery using various tools: Dr. Yan Ma taught courses using Sakai Meeting Tool, Google+ Hangout, Adobe Connect, and Mahara in collaboration with a German university. Students’ feedback was to use Google+ Hangout for convenience and effective communication.

All these pioneering efforts and course delivery were made possible with no Tech Support from GSLIS. Thanks to Mr. Timothy Tierney and the Instructional Technology and Media Services and the Sakai Team! Continuous revision and improvement of technology driven course delivery needs ongoing tech support.