Chapter VI

Distance Learning Implementation and Evaluation

The implementation phase of a DL or technology insertion initiative begins after 1) the results of the feasibility analysis indicate whether, and to what extent, your courses should be converted to DL, or whether they could benefit from technology insertion into existing classrooms, 2) design considerations have been worked out, and 3) development has been done with existing staff resources or contractor support. This chapter outlines the issues, processes and practical tips for implementing and evaluating your DL initiative.

MANAGING YOUR DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVE

A critical success factor in implementing a DL initiative is to consciously manage the effort from its inception. This is not an understatement. Many DL initiatives begin as small efforts by motivated individuals outside of the strategic planning process, with little or no support or funding. These small successes usually result in a “bandwagon” phenomena, where significant financial resources are made available, and the DL imperative takes off with a life of its own, but without a well-thought-out strategic plan, or in some cases,
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