

Online learning and student success

5/2/2011

Distance Education Committee

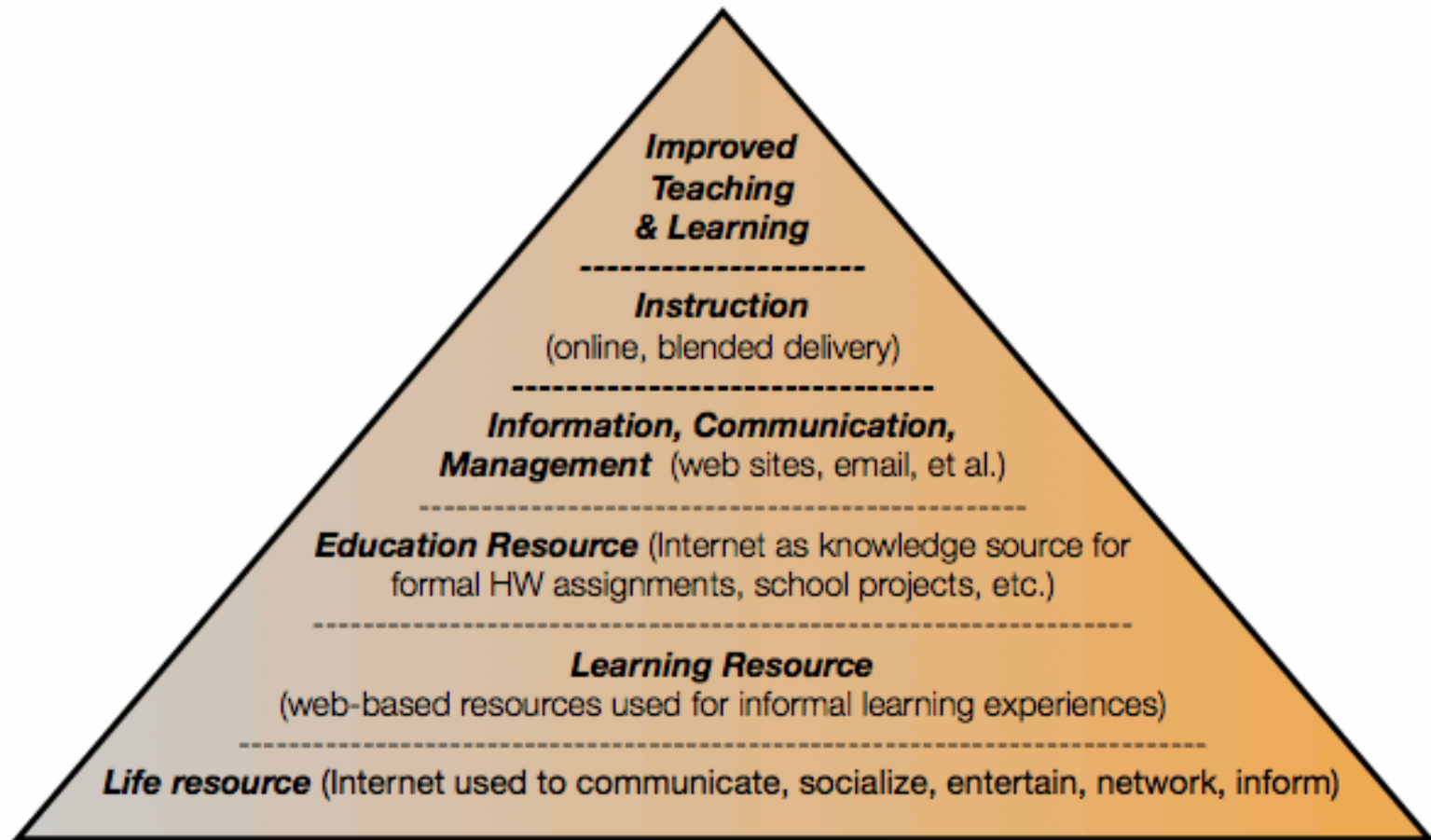
Digital Literacy

- Often described as information literacy
- Students should have ability to read and understand dynamic non-sequential information
- Bawden's (2008) Origins and Concepts of Digital Literacy
 - reading and understanding digital and non-digital formats
 - creating and communicating digital information
 - evaluation of information
 - knowledge assembly
 - information literacy
 - media literacy

Information Literacy

- Integration of library resources
- Link resources from course-related instruction sessions on Blackboard [[example](#)]
- Links to subject databases
- Students spend less time searching for websites and more time doing the actual research and critical thinking
- Designate a librarian liaison for online students?
- Provide online reference services via real-time chat?

Cyberized Education: The 6 levels of change



Where Cyberization Is Happening: Six Levels of Change



Communication issues

Issues of *communication* between students and instructors are of greatest concern

- Instructor's **responsiveness**
- **clarity** of assignments
- **comprehensibility** of instructional materials
- the **interactive** nature of the course
- the **timeliness** and **quality** of instructors' feedback on individual student effort

Best practices (according to students)

- course expectations communicated in a well-organized and accessible manner
- learning objectives clearly defined
- effective, useful, and comprehensible course materials, handouts, and assignments
- instructor responsive to students' questions
- instructor engaged with the students directly on a regular basis
 - Regular announcements and participation in discussion board
- personalized written and detailed feedback on individual student efforts

The bad news

- for a 50/50 chance of earning a C or better in any online course, basic academic skills should be at college English level.
- young males don't do as well; older guys do
- lack of instructor feedback; lack of feeling part of an online community; or poor instructional design
- lack of advising; unrealistic expectation of time commitment
- those who registered 70 or more days from the beginning of the class posted the highest mean grade average

Strategies for keeping students

- Better instructional design
 - Course provides ample opportunities for feedback, easy to navigate, and instructions clear
- learning style assessments and technical assessment
- a student attempting to register for a course after the start date may be asked to see both an advisor and the course instructor for counseling about suitability for the course
- make sure they know about support services; library, bookstore, financial aid, online textbooks, etc.



Interaction

