THE GROWTH OF ONLINE EDUCATION

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Distance education is not really new, it has been around for a long time actually. Some forms of distance education includes correspondence courses which help people learn trades on their own free time, radio or taped television courses educate students in remote areas. Today, with the rapid expansion and evolution of the Internet, online education has become a reality. What begun as a convenient means of giving internal preparation to employees via corporate intranets has now escalate to the inclusive public over the worldwide web.

The number of online-only colleges and career schools has increased as well, and traditional ground-based universities are now offering courses and degree programs online. It’s now attainable to earn a degree from an accredited university without ever attending a regular class, and more people enroll every year.

Even masteral degrees are being offered online. This is the reason why busy professionals are able to acquire higher degrees through the online study system. The university provides the learning materials and schedules assessment and exams for the students to take in regular intervals. Requirements are passed online as well and you only go to the university for some meet ups with the professor and other students, as necessary.

The Sloan Consortium, a non-profit foundation, conducts yearly surveys investigating online education. Their most recent report showed the online learning landscape as it stood in 2007-2008, revealing that
• 20% of all US tertiary students were studying online at least part-time in 2007;

• 3.9 million undergrads were taking at least one online course during Fall 2007, a growth rate of 12% on the preceding year;

• This growth rate is much faster than the overall higher education growth rate of 1.2%.

Those statistics are mostly in the United States but there are online courses now available in local universities and colleges. For example, the University of the Philippines pen University is offering various distance learning courses like the Program For Teacher Certification among others.

References:
www.metrics.com/education.htm