Why Distance Education

Rachel’s Story

Susan’s Story
What is Distance Education?

- “Diploma Mill?”
- “Correspondence Courses?”
- Synchronous & Asynchronous learning from a distance
- Satellite Classes
Skill Sets Needed

- Independence
- Self Motivation & Self Direction
- Determination
- Persistence
- Maturity
- Commitment
- Ability to Communicate in a variety of ways (written, verbal, etc.)
- Some techno-savviness
Advantages/Benefits

- Class in your jammies!
- No moving/relocating
- No hunting a parking space or paying for parking or wasting GAS!
- Networking ... even at a distance
- Ability to attend library school even if not available in your state
Challenges/Disadvantages

- Persistence in communication
- Patience with the classroom delivery/technology
- No face to face
- Slower communication
- Advanced planning and patience required for collaborative projects
Challenges/Disadvantages

- Missing on-campus seminars/workshops/events
- Limited number of DE Classes available
- WANTED: Library
- What if you don’t LIKE Orange? ;-)
Who’s Doing It?
How to choose the right one for you? Some Criteria To Consider:

- Admission requirements
- Degrees Offered
- Total Hours required
- Tuition Cost
- Class Delivery
- Orientation?
- Class Size
- Number of Core Classes Required
- Transfer Credits Accepted?
$$$ - How Do I Pay for All This?

☐ Academic Common Market

☐ Instate/Out of State or no OUT of State

☐ Federal Assistance Scholarships (VLA, ALA, etc.) APPLY for everything!

☐ Investigate your employer’s education plan
How to Survive It All – Tips from the Pros

- Hardware/software
- DSL
- Good Communication
- Friends
- Support groups (clusters)
How to Survive It All – Tips from the Pros

- Be persistent and vigilant!
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help
- Keep a balance
- Keep your focus
- There IS light at the end of the tunnel
In Conclusion

- Our Plans...
Links

- UA  http://www.slis.ua.edu/
- CUA  http://slis.cua.edu/distance/
- NCCU  http://www.nccuslis.org/distancelearning/dlearn_int.php
- USC  http://www.libsci.sc.edu/program/disted.htm
- UT  http://www.sis.utk.edu/programs/masters/de
Other Links

- U of AZ  www.sir.arizona.edu
- Clarion  www.clarion.edu/libsci
- Drexel  www.cis.drexel.edu
- FSU  www.lis.fsu.edu
- U of IL  www.alexia.lis.uiuc.edu
- UNT  www.unt.edu/slis
- U of OK  www.ou.edu/cas/slis  (DC/VA Mil Bases)
- U of Pitt  www.sis.pitt.edu
- Rutgers  www.sclis.rutgers.edu  (School Library Media and Digital Library tracks only)
- U of S MS  www.usm.edu/slis
- Syracuse  www.ist.syr.edu
- TWU  www.twu.edu/slis  (conditional accreditation)
- UW  www.ischool.washington.edu
Thank You . . .