Is a research study on the main current distance education institutions in the world and aims to contribute to the contemporary debate on university level education at a distance and computer mediated learning. This study is naturally not exhaustive due to the fast development of distance learning systems and organizations everywhere and also because the terms “open and distance learning” describe a wide range of educational realises.

The book is subdivided into three main sections. The first is dedicated to an overall survey of existing distance education institutions around the world. The second and the third sections are dedicated to the application to distance education, respectively, of the latest ICT (Information and Communications Technology) developments and of the main educational theories. This subdivision reflects three different aspects that all play an important role in research on new learning strategies and models: the observation of selected case studies and actual education experiences, the analysis of the latest technological tools applied to education and the discussion of pedagogical issues and models that inspire the use of technology for effective learning.

This survey has been lent impetus by the success of the GUIDE (Global Universities in Distance Education) 2006 International Conference that was held in Rome on the 13th and 14th of February 2006, and by the wish both to focus awareness on the world of Open and Distance Learning, and to strengthen the international cooperation among Distance Education Universities that led to the establishment of the GUIDE Association.

The publication includes a DVD with the proceedings of the GUIDE 2006 International Conference, available in .pdf version along with many video materials from the conference.

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Fa parte della redazione di FormaMente, rivista internazionale di ricerca sul futuro digitale, edita in collaborazione con GUIDE, Association of Global Universities In Distance Education, incentrata sulla ricerca nel campo della formazione a distanza e delle nuove tecnologie per l'apprendimento.

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