

# Quality Education @ a Distance

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## INTRODUCTION

The working conference of Working Group 3.6 (Distance Education) under the Technical Committee on Education (TC3) of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) was held in Geelong, Australia from 3 to 6 February, 2003. The theme of the conference was Quality Education @ a Distance (QED) and we shared presentations and discussions about establishing quality online environments for distance education. QED attracted some of the key people in the field both internationally and from within Australia and participants worked both as a large group and in more specifically diverse stream discussions which developed the ideas presented by authors. The outcomes are summarised in the overviews included in each section of this book, in which you will also find the final papers submitted by the presenters.

The streams each had a particular focus:

Stream A. Quality of systems that support online learning, quality support infrastructure, quality of technical access and support, materials distribution considered issues in each of these areas.

Stream B. Quality of teaching and learning experiences discussed a range of institutional projects using online technologies and identified issues of quality provision as well as areas of current and needed research.

Stream C. Measuring quality - evaluation and assessment, looked at recent research in working towards sustainable quality learning by considering quality evaluation as a collective process.

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The original version of this chapter was revised: The copyright line was incorrect. This has been corrected. The Erratum to this chapter is available at DOI: [10.1007/978-0-387-35700-3\\_33](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-35700-3_33)

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Stream D. Administration and policy to support quality education @ a distance analysed institutional approaches to assuring quality and identified differing perspectives for consideration.

Keynote speakers were invited to provoke our ideas on the issues of quality and these focused on the participants in online distance education and their perspectives of quality, the impact of globalisation on and its effects on education, as well as new developments in online environments. Panels stimulated an interactive forum for everyone's interactive participation, allowing for the discussion of the latest developments in digital libraries and the sharing of experiences of institutions who are requiring the use of online learning and teaching in all courses. The final plenary panel presentations at the end of the conference have been developed into the section overviews.

Full papers for this conference were peer reviewed.

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