

13. Study on Internet-Based Seminars

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

To contribute to implementation of effective distance training programs for social education by empirically examining distance learning mechanisms that utilize the new el-Net system and methods of utilizing educational materials for distance learning, and by clarifying what is expected of Study Assistants in such programs, who play a key role as tutors.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- In order to develop operational methods for a new training format for social education distance learning programs by combining Internet-based individual study with group training, this study took the librarians' training course run by Tochigi, Shiga and Fukuoka prefectures as an empirical model and examined effective training measures.
- Given that previous empirical studies have surmised that the role of tutors is crucial to effective operation of new training formats for social education distance learning programs, this study asked tutors to undertake self-monitoring and self-evaluation in order to clarify their role, and summarized the results.
- Based on issues related to creation of training materials for social education distance learning programs that were identified in the empirical study of the librarians' course, for the following year's empirical study we examined the content of *Social Education Director Training: Revision of Social Education Law and the Future of Social Education* and created some training materials.
- The study clarified the effects of new training formats. For example, the empirical study and questionnaires showed that adoption of a new training format combining individual study with group training resolves the issue of trainees' diverse levels of readiness due to diversity in years of experience and enables a certain level to be maintained when trainees participate in training.
- We prepared a tutors' manual to assist tutors in their role of effectively

operating new training formats for social education distance learning programs. Since the training format utilizes the Internet, we also prepared a trainees' handbook to help trainees resolve system difficulties with accessing training materials and to provide information on methods of utilizing training materials for effective learning.