

**Abstract:**

In the introduction the theoretical and philosophical bases are discussed and related to specifics in education in postmodern society. The following are definitions of the historical development of distance education.

The key elements of the work are characteristic of The Open University and Open Educational Resources initiative. In both cases, the use SWOT analysis in which it is included also a general appreciation of the advantages the use of e-learning.

Specifically, in the case of the Open University is first summarized the historical development in the context of social change from 60th to 90th years of the 20th century. Following evaluation of the current state of the multiple viewpoints. The challenge is to become familiar with current educational offer and new trends that raises this institution. In the case of OER is first placed emphasis on the definition and delimitation of specific outputs inciativy both the institutional background and specific projects implemented non-profit and private sectors.

The final part is devoted to a survey of the current state of Czech universities, namely offer distance learning, e-learning courses and degree of openness of access to educational materials. Author 's notes specific strengths and weaknesses and suggests possible improvements to the current situation. At the very end of the work in addition to a summary of the obtained results provides an overview of interesting phenomena related to the issue which deserves further attention.

**Keywords:**

Barriers in education, digital divide, distance learning, Open Educational Resources, The Open University