

About the author

Margaret Debenham, Independent Scholar

B.A. Hons. (First Class), The Open University, 1990

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Member of The Royal Historical Society (elected 2016) Member of The American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS), The Royal Musical Association, The Galpin Society, The British Harpsichord Society, and The Furniture History Society.

Margaret Debenham's professional background is in the field of educational technology. Her doctoral studies concerned an exploration of certain applications of computer mediated conferencing to support the studies of disabled distance learners in tertiary education.

For health-related reasons, she was herself registered as a disabled student with the Open University from the outset of her undergraduate studies in 1980. Later, when a full time post-graduate research studentship at the [Institute of Educational Technology \(IET\)](#) in the 1990s, the department took great care in making special arrangements to accommodate and facilitate her study-related needs.

Current research interests

In retirement she continues to maintain an interest in exploring innovative uses of Computer Mediated Communication (CMC), as an independent scholar, with a particular focus on the use of internet-based resources as a research tool to locate and obtain historical primary source materials in the Arts and Humanities field.

In particular, her research interests concern an exploration of the personal and business histories of a number of 18th - early 19th century keyboard and furniture makers.

Publications in this field to date include articles featuring the following influential makers: William Southwell, Longman and Broderip, August Leukfeld, Joseph Merlin, Roger Plenius, Frederick Newbauer and Frederick Beck.

Concurrently Debenham also maintains an active interest in the life and work of the illustrious Victorian portrait photographers, 'Southwell Brothers, Photographers Royal', direct descendants of William Southwell.

Publications: CMC, Disability Studies and Educational Counselling/Advising

Debenham, M. 1996a. Barriers to Study for Open University Students with Long-term Health Problems: A Survey; Student Research Centre Report No. 105. Milton Keynes: Institute of Educational Technology, The Open University.

Debenham, M. 1996b. DOORway (Disabilities, Opportunities and OutReach): Interactive Computer Conferencing System which provides Peer Group Support in Distance Learning. In *Proceedings of Interdisciplinary Aspects of Computers Helping People with Special Needs '96 (ICCHP'96)*, Eds. Klaus, J., Auff, E., Kremser, W., Zagler, L. Vol 1, pp 183-7. 2 vols. Linz, Austria: R. Oldenbourg, Wien, München.

A .pdf of the 'last version before submission' is available [here](#).

Debenham, M., Whitelock, D.M., Fung, P., Emms, J.M. 1999. On-line Educational Counselling for Students with Special Needs: Building Rapport. In *ALT-J Vol. 7 No. 1* pp 19-25. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. ([Abstract available here in .pdf format](#))
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0968776990070104>

Debenham, M. 2001. Computer Mediated Communication and Disability Support: Addressing Barriers to Study for Undergraduate Distance Learners with Long-term Health Problems. Doctoral thesis. Milton Keynes: The Open University. (Authors note 27 June 2016: [The full text is now available for download](#) via the Open University Open Research Online (ORO) website

Debenham, M. 2002. Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) and Disability Support: Addressing Barriers to Study. York: TechDis. ([A full text copy of the paper may be downloaded here](#), posted with the permission of the Higher Education Academy since the TechDis site is no longer available)

Newell, C. and Debenham, M. 2005. Disability, Chronic Illness and Distance Education. In *Encyclopaedia of Distance Learning: Distance Learning, Technologies and Applications, Vol 1*, pp 591-598. Ed. Rogers, P.L. Hershey, PA. USA: Idea Group Inc.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-59140-555-9.ch086>

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Newell, C. and Debenham, M. 2009. Disability, Chronic Illness and Distance Education. In *Encyclopedia of Distance Learning (2nd Edition) Vol. II Det-Inn*, pp 646 - 654; Eds. Rogers, P., Berg, G., Boettcher, J., Howard, C., Justice, L., Schenk, K. Hershey, New York: Information Science Reference.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-60566-198-8.ch092>