Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

Using Technology with Adult Learners
February 2010

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you access technology to prepare for instruction? Where do your learners access computers for learning or for real world purposes?

2. Which resources from the Using Technology with Adult Learners PD MAP did you read?

3. Do you administer a needs assessment to determine your learners' needs and interests in using technology? If so, does the needs assessment include questions pertinent to the three categories listed in the February PD MAP welcome letter—developing technology skills, using technology to learn adult education content and/or using technology for real world purposes?

4. Does the curriculum for your classes incorporate technology skills? Do you focus more on using technology to supplement content, e.g. websites, Oxford Picture Dictionary CD, Rosetta Stone, or do you also help learners develop their basic technology skills, e.g. keyboarding, using Windows and Microsoft applications?

5. How can integrating technology into the adult education curriculum:
   1) expand learners' means to learn adult education content and
   2) provide opportunities to gain skills they need in the outside world for self-sufficiency?

6. Researchers in one of the studies included in the PDMAP concluded that threshold levels of literacy and language proficiency necessary for adult learners to use the Internet for independent learning did not exist. The researchers concluded that engaging in online learning content is possible even for learners at the lowest levels of literacy and language proficiency. How does this finding compare with your experience using online learning content with beginning level learners?

7. There are an overwhelming number of Internet choices that adult learners could use to build knowledge or skills. A primary function that you, as teachers, can fulfill is to preview and select web sites. How do you fulfill this task? How do you evaluate the appropriateness of the sites for your learners and the task(s) you would like them to complete? How do you find the optimum point between providing web site choices for learners and safeguarding them from becoming overwhelmed?

8. What are some additional challenges you have faced in incorporating technology into instruction? What are some benefits you have seen when incorporating technology into instruction?

9. Of all the ideas that we have discussed today, what is the most important idea you can take with you to your classroom or your program?