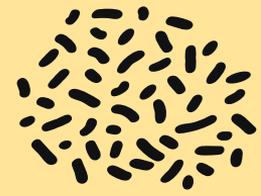




Adult Learners in Information Literacy Instruction

Sarah E. Crest MLS
Information Literacy Coordinator
Albert S. Cook Library
Towson University



Origins Adult Education

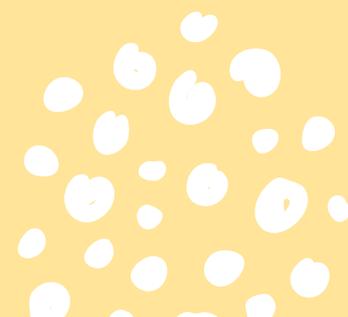
1860s - The first documented adult educational program in the United States was organized after the Civil War by the Freedmen's Bureau to promote literacy and civil rights for newly freed African Americans (Haynes, 2016).



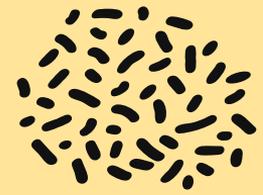


Origins Adult Education



- ✓ 1920s literacy, basic life skills
 - ✓ Correspondence courses
 - ✓ Night school
 - ✓ Military returning from WWII
 - GI bill –Career changes
 - Agricultural sciences
 - ✓ Military returning from Korea
- 

Origins Adult Education



“By 2002 participation [in adult education] included more than 52 percent of the working adult population [of the United States]” .

(GVRL, 2007)



Who are adult learners?

Undergraduates



- ✓ Undergraduates (generally) considered rising adults or emerging adults
- ✓ Treated as legal adults ...for most matters
- ✓ Mostly independent decision making
- ✓ Often employed
- ✓ Often not living with parents

Who are adult learners?

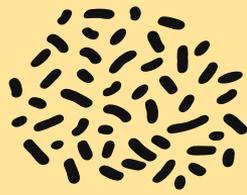
X Transfers, Graduates,
Returning



- ✓ Transfers
- ✓ Graduates
 - Community College
 - Bachelors/Masters
- ✓ Returning
 - Career advancement
 - Military
 - Family
- ✓ Retirees

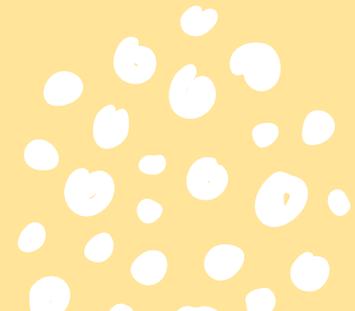


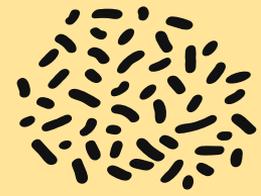
Andragogy



The study of how adults learn (Knowles, 1970)

- ✓ Not full-time learners
- ✓ Life experiences contribute to learner profile
- ✓ Differing technology abilities
- ✓ Motivations

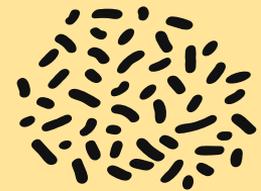




Andragogy

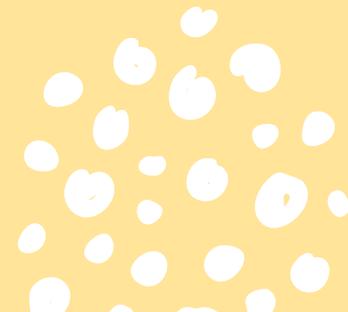
“Andragogy combines easily with the sociocultural approach to information literacy. The idea is that one is socialised into a learning environment in which motivation to learn is directly linked to skills that are needed to complete work tasks” (Daland & Walmann-Hidle, 2016, p.37).





Adult learners

Adult learners' life experiences and prior learning must be respected and valued because it is important to their current educational interactions.





Lindeman's key assumptions about adult learners



1. Adults are motivated to learn as they experience needs and interests that learning will satisfy.
 2. Adults' orientation to learning is life centered.
 3. Experience is the richest source for adult learning.
 4. Adults have a deep need to be self-directing.
 5. Individual differences among people increase with age.
- 

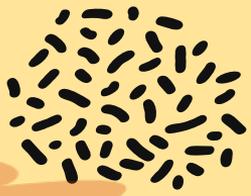
Implications for Instruction

- **Comfortable learning climate**
- **Help students with self-assessment of skills**
- **Involve students in instructional planning**
- **Develop learning experiences**
- **Helping students evaluate their learning outcomes**



(Knowles, 1970)

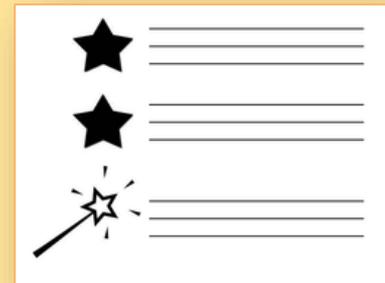




How to...

involve students in instructional planning

- ✓ With students, create learning outcomes based on the assignment.
- ✓ Send survey ahead of class;
 - What databases have you used?
 - What do you want to learn?
 - 2 stars and a wish
 - 2 things that went well
 - One thing you'd like to see improved





How to...

involve students in instructional planning

- ✓ Start by asking students
 - What they need?
 - What they find difficult?
 - Want to know?

- ✓ Acknowledge their adulthood

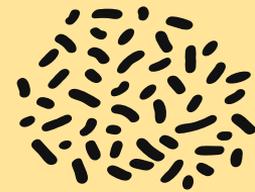
- ✓ Ask ‘What frustrates you about the research process’?

- ✓ How many of you have already had [IL] instruction?
(acknowledge prior learning)



Develop learning experiences

- ✓ Lessons and activities tied directly to the assignment
- ✓ Case studies and other experiential learning exercises
- ✓ Activity based learning
- ✓ Online tutorials
- ✓ Include time for collaboration and reflection



Life Long Learning

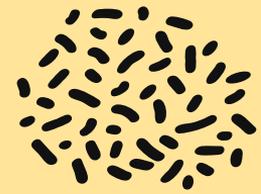
- ✓ Burke and Hutchins (2007) “operationalize learning transfers as the use of newly acquired knowledge or skills within the regular working or life context”.

...newly acquired knowledge, skills, or behavior must be generalized to a lived context, [so that] students can actively use and apply the knowledge to a real-world context

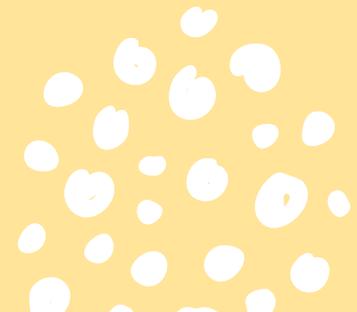
(As cited in Roumell, 2018, p15)



Life Long Learning



- ✓ Resources that can be accessed after graduation
 - Workplace resources
 - Public library and public college resources
 - Freely accessible resources
 - Open source
 - Apps





Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at screst@towson.edu



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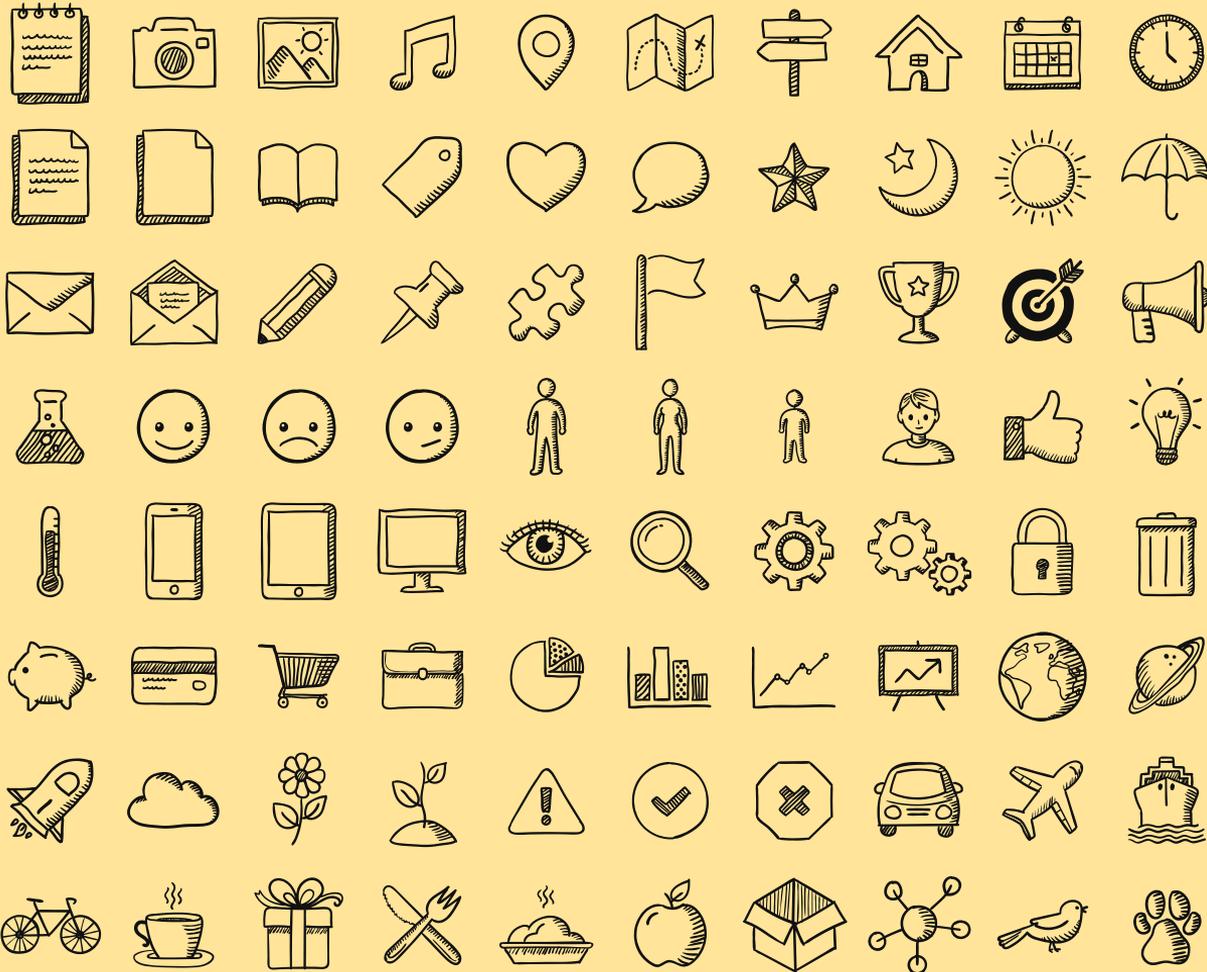
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Roumell, E. A. (2019). Priming adult learners for learning transfer: Beyond content and delivery. *Adult Learning*, 30(1), 15–22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1045159518791281>



Adult learners rock!

Lived experiences and new scholarship provide adult learners with an amazing cadre of knowledge and skills that seed lifelong learning (Crest, 2019).



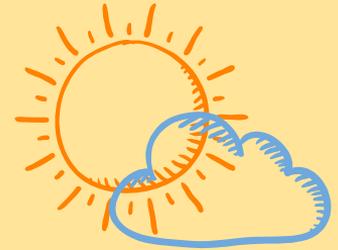
SlidesCarnival icons are editable shapes.

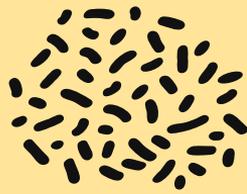
This means that you can:

- X Resize them without losing quality.
- X Change fill color and opacity.
- X Change line color, width and style.

Isn't that nice? :)

Examples:





Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- X Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- X Photographs by [Unsplash](#)

