

PAPER:

RESEARCH AS A MEANS OF INFORMING POLICY AND PRACTICE

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Abstract:

Adult education is in a period of transformation. This transformation can be traced to the use of technology in learning which is forcing educators to review “what they do” and “how they do it”. According to Sherritt and Basom (1997) the use of the Internet in the delivery of learning is the main catalyst of this transformation. Although the implications of the use of the Internet in adult education are not fully understood, it is apparent that the Internet heralds profound changes in ways of knowing and learning. By ignoring and not discussing issues surrounding the Internet’s use in adult education, educators may risk being excluded from an educational metamorphosis that redefines adult learning for the beginning of the new millennium. This “rethinking” of learning in the context of the Internet raises many issues. Some of these issues include lifelong learning, responding to learner demand, access applying the technology to learning, initiating innovation, developing policies and procedures and investigating collaborative approaches between public and private institutions. (Paine, 1997) this paper will focus on a discussion of these issues and provide the results of the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) Student Technology Survey . The purpose of this survey was to investigate the attitude of OTEN students to on-line learning and to determine the expected demand for this type of learning and delivery.