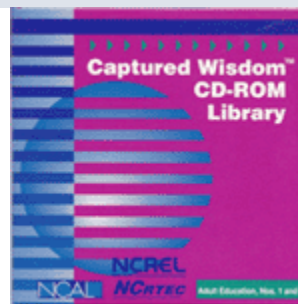


REVIEWS

Technology and teaching: Honouring teachers' wisdom

Captured Wisdom documents the ways some educators and learners actually use technology in their classrooms as a tool to support instruction and learning in a variety of content areas.



The two CD-ROM set, developed in the U.S. at the National Center for Adult Literacy (NCAL) contains seven short videos of authentic adult education classrooms. Each video clip has a section with the featured teacher answering questions posed by other adult education teachers who first watched the video clips in focus groups. A short instruction booklet tells teachers how to get the most out of Captured Wisdom.

To develop each of the Captured Wisdom stories, teachers and learners were filmed describing and demonstrating how they use technology in classroom-based projects. Each edited videotaped segment was viewed by focus groups of adult educators who wrote down questions that they wanted to ask the teacher. They felt the answers to these questions would prepare them to use the activities in their own classrooms. Their questions were grouped into categories such as Instructional Activities, Project Management, Assessment, and Technical Issues, and were given to the presenting teacher. Responses were tape-recorded and are included as companion segments on the CD-ROM. This development process was meant to assure that the needs and concerns of real teachers in real adult education programs are addressed. Captured Wisdom can help teachers to think about and question the approaches of other teachers and the ways they might adapt what they see and hear for their own milieu.

Featured teachers were selected from recommendations through postings on adult literacy listservs, state literacy directors, presenters at conferences, and through word of mouth. The project attempted to provide variety in the kinds of activities shown, technologies utilized, and instructional content.

The model for Captured Wisdom was developed by the North Central Regional Education Laboratory (NCREL) for K-12 teachers and was extended to address adult literacy instruction by the National Center on Adult Literacy (NCAL) under the North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium (NCRTEC) project. Available in videotape and CD-ROM formats.

The videotapes contain the classroom vignettes that were used to create the full question/answer CD-ROM set. A "How to Use" guide for using the videotapes in professional development activities is being developed.

For ten ways that teachers, administrators and professional developers can use Captured Wisdom, go to <http://litserver.literacy.upenn.edu/capturedwisdom.html>

The site also contains transcripts of video segments.

Information: Lynda Ginsburg at ginsburg@literacy.upenn.edu. Or by mail: Dr. Lynda Ginsburg, Captured Wisdom Project, National Center on Adult Literacy, University of Pennsylvania, 3910 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111. Abridged from <http://litserver.literacy.upenn.edu/capturedwisdom.html>

U.S. national technology lab for adult education

In October 2001, the U.S. Department of Education awarded \$2.4 million dollars to the National Center on Adult Literacy (NCAL) at the University of Pennsylvania/Graduate School of Education to establish TECH.21(SM), a National Technology Lab to foster the use of technology in adult education instructional programs in the United States. The technologies include distance learning, the Internet, CDs, and others.

The lab will serve as a hands-on, virtual research-to-practice and dissemination system for high quality technology applications for adult education. TECH.21(SM) will develop, evaluate, and disseminate cost-effective, high quality and user-friendly models and practices of using technology for adult learning. It will also focus on new models of technology-assisted professional development.

NCAL has three national partners in this initiative. Seven adult education field sites across the U.S. will provide continuous feedback of practice-based information.

The funding represents a new direction in the U.S. federal government's approach to educational technology use for adult education by creating a one-stop research, training, and evaluation laboratory to assist and support adult education program directors, practitioners, and state-level policymakers.

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Sample video scenarios from Captured Wisdom



"The Antarctica Project": Could you survive in an ice-covered environment? Adult learners in Susan Cowles' class gathered information and corresponded electronically with a scientist in Antarctica to find out about research and life on the continent.



"Home Countries": How can you share your memories with new friends? ESL learners in Suzanne Leibman's class use the Internet to find pictures and information about their home countries for oral and written reports.



"The Mars Project": Did you ever dream of visiting Mars? Susan Cowles' adult learners went on an electronic fieldtrip to Mars and used project resources to learn about the environment and rocketry.



"The Restaurant Problem": If you were a consultant hired to save a failing restaurant, what would you do? Lyndy Girtten's GED class uses technology to deal with irate customers, schedule work hours, and design new menus.



"Intrepid Tales": Have you ever thought of publishing a book? Stephanie Thomas' class relied on technology to help them publish an account of their fieldtrip to the "Intrepid".



"Creating Family Histories": How can you develop English and technology skills simultaneously? Susan Gaer's ESL learners use a variety of technologies to present family histories online.



"Presenting the Whole Package": What will you do at your next job interview? Crystal Hack and David Baker's learners will show electronic slide presentations and the professional portfolios they created with business software.