Technology, Basic Skills, and Adult Education:

Getting Ready and Moving Forward

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edited by

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Foreword

The Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education (ERIC/ACVE) is 1 of 16 clearinghouses in a national information system that is funded by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education. This paper was developed to fulfill one of the functions of the clearinghouse—interpreting the literature in the ERIC database. This paper should be of interest to adult educators and program administrators, especially in adult literacy and basic education.

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Executive Summary

This monograph is designed to be used as a complete volume or as a set of papers that can be referenced separately. The monograph is organized into two sections. **Section I: Getting Ready**, is designed to help educators get started, plan for, and integrate technology into adult education. The five papers in this section present the case for using technology in adult education, outline initial steps, present a technology planning process and sources of funding, offer guidelines for software and hardware selection, and suggest a number of approaches for integrating technology with instruction.

**Section II: Moving Forward**, contains six papers that address the following topics: the interconnections between adult learning theory and educational technology, programmatic uses of technology in adult education; computerized adaptive testing and the outcomes of SARA (Study of Adult Reading Acquisition); examples of adult learning at a distance; results of a survey of adult literacy practitioners on Internet use; and an overview of policy issues and federally supported programs using technology in adult education.

Throughout the paper, the authors provide suggestions and recommendations for making the best uses of technology and providing staff development. The monograph contains a list of national adult education agencies, including their website addresses, and 85 references.

Information on the topics in this paper may be found in the ERIC database using the following descriptors: *Adult Basic Education*, *Adult Education*, *Adult Educators*, *Adult Learning*, *Computer Software Evaluation*, *Computer Uses in Education*, *Distance Education*, *Educational Finance*, *Educational Planning*, *Educational Technology*, *Internet*, *Public Policy*, and *Staff Development*. Asterisks indicate descriptors that are particularly relevant.
I think there is a world market, for maybe five computers.

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.

Darryl F. Zanuck, head of 20th century Fox, 1946

There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.

Ken Olsen, president of Digital Equipment Corporation, 1977