

Winter 1999 The OLRC News Volume 4, No. 1

GTE Grant Recipients Selected

The GTE Foundation has awarded a grant to the Midwest Technology LINCS, located at the Ohio Literacy Resource Center (OLRC). The OLRC in conjunction with the National Institute for Literacy will oversee the development of model web-based projects. The primary goal of these projects is to develop materials that integrate the World Wide Web (WWW) and hypermedia into teaching and learning in adult literacy environments.

The following adult literacy programs have been awarded grants:

- Waubensee College Innovative Tech Design Center: Illinois
- The Wisconsin Key New Readers Newspaper, ABE Milwaukee Area Technical College: Wisconsin

- Cuyahoga Community College: Ohio
- Family Learning and Resource Center: Missouri
- Adult Learning Center — ESL Program: North Dakota
- Carl Sandburg College Adult Learning Center: Illinois
- Strongsville City Schools ABLE: Ohio
- Lake County (IL) Literacy Program: Illinois
- Roseville Adult High School: Minnesota
- Minot Public Schools: North Dakota
- A Betterway of Life: Ohio

We are looking forward to working with each of these programs and anticipate having some dynamic projects useful for all adult basic programs.

Creating Web Pages

Several ABLE practitioners from the Northeast region of Ohio participated in a three-part workshop entitled "Creating Web Pages." This three-day workshop conducted on Friday, October 2, Friday, November 6, and Friday, December 11, 1998 took place at the Northeast ABLE Resource Center <literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Resc/ABLE/NEindex.html>. The primary goal of this workshop was to successfully create a basic web page using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), one of the languages used for creating web pages.

Objectives included:

- Knowing and understanding how web pages are created using HTML
- Understanding the basic tags used for creating web pages

- Knowing how to successfully use Home Site web editor
- Creating a simple web page using HTML

The Northeast ABLE practitioners did much more than create a basic web page; they successfully created web sites relating to their families, place of employment, and general hobbies and interests. To view the final projects, go to <literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Resc/ABLE/workshops/index.html>. If you are interested in having this workshop conducted in your region, please contact Kimberly S. McCoy at The Ohio Literacy Resource Center via email at kmccoy@literacy.kent.edu or telephone at 800-765-2897 ext. 27.



Teaching with the Internet: Lessons from the Classroom

A Book Review by Kimberly S. McCoy

Teaching with the Internet: Lessons from the Classroom is a wonderful resource for anyone who is interested in integrating the Internet in the classroom. This is a simple but detailed guide to teaching many different concepts using the Internet. The book provides many examples on how to integrate the Internet from educators around the world. One of the major strengths of this book is that it covers the “educator’s perspective” as well as addressing the technical aspect of the Internet. It also covers issues related to the Macintosh and the PC user.

Donald J. Leu, Jr. and Deborah Diadiun Leu, authors of this book, realize that the Internet is constantly changing and maintain a web site located at <web.syr.edu/~djleu/teaching.html>. This web site provides current information on each chapter of the book and up to date hypertext links. The authors also publish a revised version of the book annually, to address any changes or new developments regarding technology or the Internet. Each chapter starts with an email message from the authors that covers the Internet concept to be addressed in the chapter. Following each e-mail is a brief, but detailed explanation of how that particular teacher has used the Internet in the classroom and learners’ experiences and concerns during the lesson. Within each chapter, useful URL’s, teaching ideas and frequently asked questions (FAQ’s) are provided to guide the novice or the guru educator through creating Internet-based lessons.

To illustrate, in “Welcome to the Internet,” chapter one, Ms. Jackson’s tenth grade class is beginning to start their adventure into American history. First, Ms. Jackson divides the class into small groups and gives the students various materials that deal with historical documents, books and other resources dealing with American history. Every Friday the class has an Internet workshop that provides ample opportunity for learners to ask questions and discuss different aspects of the Internet. The students use the Internet to develop essential questions from various resources available via the web. Ms. Jackson has made it a habit to set each computer’s homepage (the first web page the browser goes to) to “American Memory” sponsored by The Library of Congress <lcweb2.loc.gov/ammemhome.html>. This is an excellent, as well as reliable, social studies resource to view and collect data.

According to the authors, Ms. Jackson uses the Internet to encourage students to share, exchange and discuss information, a marvelous opportunity to build a supportive learning environment.

The other 11 chapters are:

- 2 Developing Navigation Strategies With Your Students
- 3 Communicating on the Internet: E-mail, Mailing Lists, and Other Forms of Electronic Communication
- 4 Effective Instructional Strategies: Internet Workshop, Internet Activity, Internet Project, and Internet Inquiry
- 5 English and the Language Arts: Opening New Doors to Literature and Literacy
- 6 Social Studies: A World of Possibilities
- 7 Science: Using the Internet to Support Scientific Thinking
- 8 Math: Thinking Mathematically on the Internet
- 9 Special Ideas for Younger Children: Using the Internet in the Primary Grades
- 10 Using the Internet to Increase Multicultural Understanding
- 11 Including All Students on the Internet
- 12 Developing a Home Page for Your Classroom

Teaching with the Internet: Lessons from the Classroom is geared towards the K-12 sector; nevertheless it is a wonderful resource for any adult educator interested in integrating the Internet within the classroom.

Leu, Jr. J. Donald and Leu Deborah Diadiun. (1999). Teaching with the Internet: Lessons from the Classroom (Welcome to the Internet, 1). Norwood, Massachusetts: Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc. 325 pages. ISBN 0-926842-85-4.

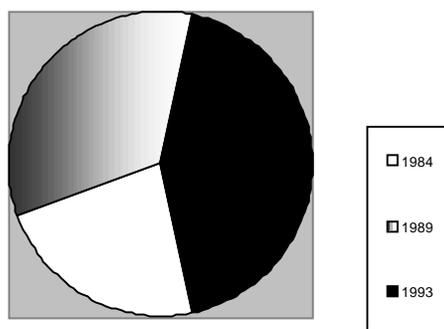
This book can be ordered from Christopher-Gordon Publisher, Inc. (800) 934-8322 for \$28.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. It can also be borrowed from the Ohio Literacy Resource Center by completing the request form found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Computers Skills in the Workplace

According to the National Alliance of Business at <www.nab.com>, using technology is becoming a necessary skill for individuals entering the workplace. Since 1990 the use of computers in the workplace has doubled. For instance, findings from the US Census Bureau reported that in 1984, one-quarter of workplaces in the United States were using a computer, compared to one-half in 1993. Another study from Harry Holzer, What Employers Want (1996, Russell Sage Foundation), stated that more than fifty percent of jobs conducted by non-college workers use the computer on a daily basis. Computer skills make a difference with salaries as well. To illustrate, if two employees have the same type of credentials such as high school diploma, associate, bachelors or masters degree, the employee who has more computer skills and is using technology on the job is more likely to receive a higher salary than the employee who is not. Individuals who hold some type of degree such as associates, bachelors, or masters are seven times more likely to use computers in their work environment than individuals without a high school diploma.

Percentage of Workforce Using Computers

Adapted from the National Business Alliance



Great New Resources on the OLRC Web Site

Have you seen some of the exciting additions to the Ohio Literacy Resource Center's website?

- Check out the 1998 Local Program Technology Projects for some fun activities/lesson plans from various programs in Ohio <<http://literacy.kent.edu/Minigrants/index.html>>.
- From the Information and Announcements page you can find news and updates in the literacy field <<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/announcements.html>>.
- And the Family Literacy Resource Notebook is being put online in stages so keep coming back to see the chapters, as they are added <<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/famlitnotebook/>>.

ERIC Resources

Looking for information on ERIC?

Now there is a full ERIC Database that contains records from (1966 to July 1998) on Information and Technology located at <eric.syr.edu/Eric/>.

The Eric Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education web site at <ericacve.org/pubs/hopey.htm> has recently published a wonderful publication geared toward technology issues and adult education. *“Technology, Basic Skills, and Adult Education: Getting Ready and Moving Forward”* edited by Christopher E. Hopey was developed to assist educators with planning and integrating technology within their adult education curriculum. This publication also provides information on using technology in the adult education field, presenting a technology planning process, and funding sources.

The *ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career and Vocational Education* has created an e-mail listserv that provides information regarding announcements, conference information, and the latest publications dealing with adult education issues and training opportunities. If you would like to subscribe send an e-mail message to listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu. In the body area, type subscribe ericacve your firstname and lastname. If you would like more information regarding this listserv, please contact Judy Wagner, 1900 Kenny Road Columbus, OH 43210-1090; (800) 848-4815, ext. 2-8625; or email: wagner.6@osu.edu.



Web Sites to Explore

- **America's Career InfoNet** located at www.acinet.org has been designed to provide individuals with information about employment trends, what occupations are growing, what occupations are shrinking, how much different jobs pay and what kind of training will be required. It contains a much richer set of state wage and occupational data, allowing the customer to directly jump from their career research to jobs that are available through America's Job Bank www.ajb.dni.us. This site draws on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the State Employment Security Agencies.
- **America's Learning Exchange** www.alx.org is a companion site whose beta version has also debuted. Individuals will be able to find convenient and affordable education and training (technology-based, distance learning and traditional courses) to help prepare for a new career and/or upgrade skills. Employers can use this site to determine training courses available for them to offer to their employees. The next major release/update of ALX is scheduled for January 1999.
- **The National Coalition for Literacy** has created a web site that includes links to member organizations. It is located at www.nifl.gov/Coalition/nclhome.htm. The main purpose of the organization is to serve as an authoritative commentator on emerging literacy issues; sustain and expand public awareness and understanding of literacy and its relation to other social issues; foster collaboration at national, state and local levels among public and private institutions; provide a communication and coordinating forum for its member organizations; and serve as the leadership voice for the literacy movement.
- A science special collection at **Western/Pacific Regional LINCS** located at literacynet.org/science allows instructors to develop and incorporate into their teaching and learning processes a series of inquiry-based activities in the context of science and technology. Web-based resources are presented in a way that is designed to allow the instructor to quickly gain access to the richness of materials found on the Internet. A review of appropriate websites assists other instructors in the incorporation of Internet resources in the teaching and learning of science, math, writing, and critical reading. These sites have been field-tested with adult learners. The resources can be used effectively by any instructor and group with only a single Internet connection.

Do you want to keep up with the latest opportunities and information? The Ohiolit is a listserv that brings such information to your email account. If you are not a member, subscribe today. Send a message to listproc@literacy.kent.edu and in the message write "subscribe ohiolit first name last name" where you fill in your own name.

Upcoming Events

Literacy and Technology

The 1999 Adult Literacy and Technology Conference will be held July 29-31, 1999, at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. It will include hands-on sessions and tours of model programs and facilities. Contact the Literacy Training Network, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., #CHC131, St. Paul, MN 55105; (651) 962-5441; Web site: <http://www.mlrc.stthomas.edu/alt1999/home.htm>. Ohio teachers can compete for funding to attend the conference (see page 2).

THE OHIO LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER IS LOCATED AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY,
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