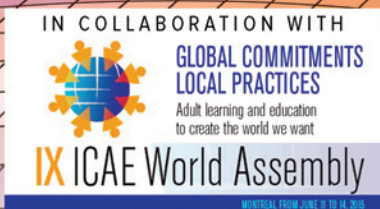


Digital Environments:

Opportunities and challenges for literacy, learning and citizenship



The world is changing faster than most individuals or societies can accommodate or many can understand.

As the digital revolution has taken hold and media merge, the lines have blurred between the personal and the public, and social disparities have grown between groups and countries. Technologies can become obsolete in months, and traditional practices inadequate to help people navigate the new realities. Challenges abound for individuals and institutions as we try to make sense of this world and find ways to support civil societies that improve the lives of citizens.

Literacy has been defined as a way to make meaning of the signs in our communities. The 2015 Summer Institute will ask how the turn to the digital has changed the notion of literacies and how a broader understanding of this change can contribute to an agenda for adult learning that transforms challenge into opportunity.

As we have for 25 years on topics ranging from technological to media to health literacy, the 2015 Institute will create space for dialogue between providers, researchers, students and policy-makers that can support better practice and more informed policy around the changing concepts of literacy, learning, education and social engagement in a digital world. We expect adult educators, researchers, students and policy makers from diverse fields in Canada and abroad.

COLLABORATIONS

We continue our collaboration with RESDAC and CDEACF, two strong adult learning organizations in Canada, and we are honoured this year to affiliate with the 9th World Assembly on Adult Education and Lifelong Learning hosted by the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE), the Institut de coopération pour l'éducation des adultes (ICEA) and the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Montreal from June 11 – 14, 2015.

The World Assembly, held once every four years, brings together youth and adult educators, and learners from around the world to celebrate the importance of adult education to construct just and equitable societies.¹

The title of the 9th Assembly is Global Commitments, Local Practices: Adult learning and education to create the world we want

The Institute will begin on Thursday, June 11, one day before the Assembly and run for a further half day on the afternoon of June 12. Registrants will be able to attend the full World Assembly or any selected sessions during the remaining two days.

We will relate many of our digital literacy sessions and discussions to four of the themes adopted by the Assembly:

- **Right to education and lifelong learning for all, beyond 2015** – including strategies to secure universal adult literacy, and the role of civil society in delivering and monitoring provision.
- **Role of adult learning and education for sustainable development** – including response to crises at local, regional and global level in the context of a globalizing world marked by rapid changes in the economy, governance, labour market and climate; reflecting the need for a paradigm shift in setting alternative agendas.
- **Adult learning and education, power relations and community engagement** – including reviewing successful educational strategies to secure decent work and gender equality, and ending discrimination at the level of families, communities, workplaces and governance.
- **Quality inclusive education for all** – capacity building and preparation of teachers/ facilitators in adult education for transformation, quality provision; improvement of curricula; and participatory teaching and learning strategies and methods

The Institute will be bilingual, English and French, Assembly Plenary sessions will have translation in English, French and Spanish.



¹[See <http://www.waam2015.org/en/ixe-assembl%C3%A9e-mondiale-de-l%E2%80%99C3%A9ducation-et-de-la-formation-des-adultes>]

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Electronic health records, robotic surgeries, home appliances activated online, tax filing and banking online, YouTube tutorials, hacked credit cards, fingerprint passwords— some random real-life examples from today’s digital world. What does it mean to be literate in this environment? How can we ensure that adults have the skills they need to critically engage in this increasingly complex world and manage their work and personal lives? What are the social and economic costs if citizens do not have these skills? Are we assessing and teaching the right skills? What opportunities do various technologies offer to address the challenges they create? Why should governments, educators, and civic leaders care? Just some of the questions and issues we will explore at the Institute....

A UNIQUE FORMAT

The Institute offers a unique opportunity to share and create knowledge in a collaborative environment with a limited number of participants (100).

We build the program around the experience and expertise of those who register. If you register, you may ask to be a presenter. Participants work together for the one and a half days.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms will be available at the residences of the University of Montreal near the conference site.

We will also have a block of rooms at Ruby Foo’s Hotel.

Ruby Foo’s Hotel

7655 Decarie Boulevard
Montreal, Quebec H4P 2H2
Tel.: 1.514.731.7701 or 1.800.361.5419
Fax: 1.514.731.7158

Details are on the online registration form.

FEES

Early-bird, until April 30, 2015	\$285.00
After May 1, 2015	\$325.00

The fee covers the Summer Institute **and** the World Assembly.

REGISTRATION is available online at:

<https://crm.cdeacf.ca/en/civicrm/event/info?id=1>



Literacy for the 21st century: A guiding definition

Literacy involves a complex set of abilities to understand and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture for personal and community development at home and work.

The need and demand for these abilities vary in different societies. In a technological society, the concept is expanding to include digital media in addition to print alphabets and numbers. Individuals must be given life-long learning opportunities to move along a continuum that includes reading, writing, and numeracy in print and digital environments and the critical understanding and decision-making abilities they need in their lives.

Source: The Centre for Literacy, rev 2014



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