

# Blended learning and technology-enabled solutions for adult literacy

**AlphaPlus services and success stories  
from Literacy and Basic Skills programs In Ontario**

# Outline

- ▶ IT Consulting and Coaching Services
- ▶ Exemplary Practice in Technology Use
- ▶ Distance Learning Delivery Support (e-Channel)
- ▶ Blended Learning PD, Moodle Training, Resources, and Research

# AlphaPlus IT Coaching Services

- ▶ Working with individual agencies to examine all aspects of how IT is used in their agency
- ▶ Together, identify obstacles to and opportunities for the greater use of IT in each agency
- ▶ Introduce IT planning tools to help agencies map and reach defined IT goals
- ▶ Work with agency staff to identify short term goals achievable this year while also planning for longer term goals better achieved in stages.

# AlphaPlus IT Coaching Services

## IT Planning Roadmap

The Technology Planning Roadmap is a set of packages designed to help adult literacy organizations make the best use of the technology they already have and to plan for their future needs.



<http://www.alphaplus.ca/en/oalcf/technology-planning-roadmap.html>

# Digital tech-enabled solutions

- ▶ Purposeful  
*What do you want to achieve or what problem do you want to solve?*
- ▶ Grounded  
*In the lived reality of adult literacy programming and instruction*
- ▶ Practical  
*Digital technology adapted to LBS realities can work for you*

# WHAT IS THE CLOUD?

- the cloud is the internet!! – a network of servers that process and store your data and content
- cloud services make distribution and access possible – any time, any where, on any digital device



*When you check your email online you are in the “cloud”.*

*Other cloud-based tools are Dropbox and Evernote.*

# DROPBOX AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## What is Dropbox?

- a desktop and web application that enables users to store all types of files ... **in the cloud** access files from different computers and mobile devices – anywhere you have an internet connection and a web browser
- share access to files and folders with other Dropbox users



*Dropbox can be installed on a computer to work like a regular folder and it can be accessed via a web-based interface or on mobile devices such as tablets or smart phones (Android, iOS, Windows) . The content synchs automatically.*

# DROPBOX AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

- Setup of a program-specific user account
- Desktop version of Dropbox on each student computer automatically synched to the account
- Files in Dropbox folder are automatically accessible on each student computer
- Sub-folders can be shared with instructor account, e.g. folders for activities or for each student
- Dropbox functions as an internal network
- Automatic file backup and remote accessibility
- If learners want to have remote access to their student folder, a student's folder can be shared with the student's account and accessed remotely



# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## What is Evernote?

- a web application that enables users to capture, store and save web pages, notes, photos ... **in the cloud**
- retrieve all your “stuff” from your computer, smartphone, tablet – anywhere you have an internet connection and a web browser



*In addition to the web application, Evernote can be installed on your desktop (Windows and Mac) and mobile devices such as tablets or smart phones (Android, iOS, Windows)*

# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## The multi-level class

- learners want to improve their literacy or numeracy skills to transition to work, college or to become more independent
- for most, English is their second language, their level of education is below grade 10 and they aren't comfortable using computers



# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## One instructor/administrator

- on a typical day, a group of learners would work on different activities based on their level and their goal path
- the instructor would go around to observe them at work and to respond to their questions
- some learners would finish faster and get bored or frustrated when they had to wait for further instructions/activities from the instructor who was busy helping someone else



# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## The instructor needed a tool that would:

- allow for more time with emergent learners
- help independent learners function with minimal assistance
- make it easy to organize and manage all kinds of resources for learners (websites, videos, PDFs, Word files and images)
- Allow learners to access websites without having to type in URL each time
- be accessible to learners while they are away from class
- allow lessons to be quickly customized to learner's needs
- not require learners to login with a user name and password
- be easy to use

**Work Chat**

**Shortcuts**  
*Drag notes, notebooks or tags here for quick access*

**Notes (963)**

**Notebooks**

**Admin Notebook**

- DHLBS - Admin Forms (22)
- DHLBS - Intake Documents (9)
- DHLBS - Learner Exit & Follo... (2)

**Assessments Notebook**

- DHLBS - Sample Tests (9)

**DHLBS-MDB**

**Learners**

- DHLBS-A D (5)
- DHLBS-A F (34)
- DHLBS-A P (28)
- DHLBS-A Y (5)
- DHLBS-C P (29)
- DHLBS-D A (12)
- DHLBS-D S (8)
- DHLBS-F H (12)
- DHLBS-H D (44)**
- DHLBS-L B (38)
- DHLBS-M K (12)
- DHLBS-M N (16)
- DHLBS-N M (20)
- DHLBS-R A (9)
- DHLBS-S L (39)

**DHLBS-H D**

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**Always remember**  
 2/4/2015  
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**DHLBS-H D** Click to add tag...

Created: 2/4/2015 11:29 AM Updated: 2/4/2015 11:29 AM

**Always remember**

You learn something every day if you pay attention.

~Ray LeBlond

VERYBESTQUOTES.COM



**Instructor Notebooks**



**Notes in a notebook**



**Preview of a selected note**

# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

The image shows a screenshot of the Evernote web interface. At the top, the Evernote logo and a search bar are visible. The main content area displays a notebook titled 'DHLBS-H D' with a list of notes. A modal window is open on the left, titled 'Two ways to view this notebook', offering options to 'Join This Notebook' (with 'Explore' and 'Access' sub-options) or to 'View Notebook' without signing in. A quote overlay is positioned on the right side of the notebook, featuring the text 'You learn something every day if you pay attention.' attributed to '~Ray LeBlond' and sourced from 'VERYBESTQUOTES.COM'. The quote is set against a light green background.

**EVERNOTE** Search

DHLBS-H D

brownmax84 has shared a notebook with you.

**Join Notebook**

**Home | CLEO (Community Legal Education)**

Yesterday Change font size: Current Zoom: 100% Français Home About Resources and Publications Research and Projects Feedback What's New

**Class Pictures**

Last week <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B0PS9pL5-EucDRpVUZmQ0J0NEk&usp=sharing>

Always remember

ts ago

a beautiful week!

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How To Write A Paragraph - Part 6 Using The Writing Process.pdf: -USING THE WRITING PROCESS The writing process is

How To Write A Paragraph - Part 5 Types of Paragraphs.pdf: TYPES OF PARAGRAPHS Three types of paragraphs are dealt with in this

How To Write A Paragraph - Part 4 Concluding Sentences.pdf: •• EXERCISES INCLUDING SENTENCE let eA) A concluding

How To Write A Paragraph - Part 3 Coherence.pdf: How To Write A Paragraph - Part 3 Coherence.pdf: COHERENCE Coherence is a smooth movement from one idea to the next in a

How To Write A Paragraph - Part 2 Topic Sentences.pdf: How To Write A Paragraph - Part 2 Topic Sentences.pdf: TOPIC SENTENCES

DHLBS-H D

Created: Feb 04, 2015 Modified: Feb 04, 2015

Always remember

You learn something every day if you pay attention.

~Ray LeBlond

VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

**Two ways to view this notebook**

**Join This Notebook to:**

**Explore**  
View everything in this notebook at any time from anywhere

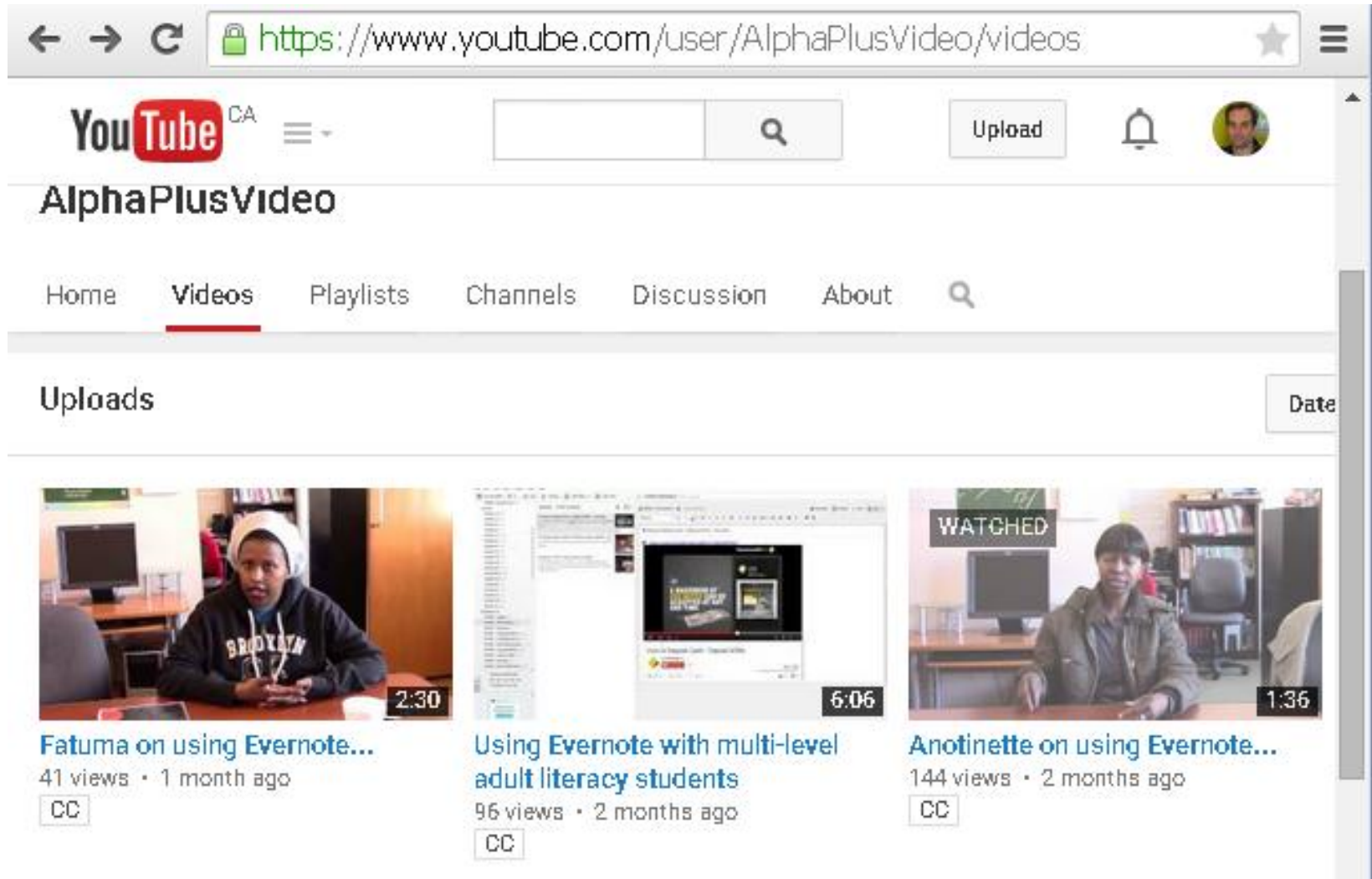
**Access**  
See this notebook on all your computers and devices in Evernote

**Join Notebook**

**Or, view this notebook now:**  
Click View Notebook to continue without signing in to Evernote

**View Notebook**

# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE



The screenshot shows a YouTube channel page for 'AlphaPlusVideo'. The browser address bar displays the URL 'https://www.youtube.com/user/AlphaPlusVideo/videos'. The YouTube logo is in the top left, and the channel name 'AlphaPlusVideo' is prominently displayed. Navigation tabs include 'Home', 'Videos', 'Playlists', 'Channels', 'Discussion', and 'About', with 'Videos' being the active tab. A search bar and an 'Upload' button are also visible. The 'Uploads' section is titled, and a 'Date' filter is present. Three video thumbnails are shown, each with a title, view count, and upload time:

- Video 1:** 'Fatuma on using Evernote...' with 41 views, uploaded 1 month ago, and a duration of 2:30. It features a woman in a dark hoodie with 'BROOKLYN' on it.
- Video 2:** 'Using Evernote with multi-level adult literacy students' with 96 views, uploaded 2 months ago, and a duration of 6:06. The thumbnail shows a computer screen displaying a video player.
- Video 3:** 'Anotinette on using Evernote...' with 144 views, uploaded 2 months ago, and a duration of 1:36. It features a man in a grey jacket, and the word 'WATCHED' is overlaid on the top left of the thumbnail.

Each video entry includes a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license icon (CC BY-NC-SA).

# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## Benefits to the instructor

- save and organize various resources in one place
- can add screen captures instead written instructions
- easier to manage the multi-level class
- learners are more engaged
- learners work at their own pace, open to challenges
- can customize lessons
- record of assigned work



# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## Impact on learners

- self-esteem and independence increased
- more confident and open to using technology
- learning other tech skills (tabs, search, print)
- learners try activities and manage their learning
- have access to activities outside of class
- more motivated, more work done = faster progress
- learners challenge themselves and are more persevering
- more collaboration and peer-to-peer help

# EVERNOTE AS AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

## How can it work for other programs/instructors

For example, instructors can use it to:

- manage your own links and resources
- have organizational Evernote account to share resources
- keep track of assigned learning activities on a daily or weekly basis
- Have learners submit assignments by adding them to their Evernote notebook

# Distance Learning Delivery Support (e-Channel)

- e-Channel is a web-based way to deliver LBS training that improves access for Ontarians who choose or are in need of independent distance learning
- The e-Channel network consists of these programs:
  - Avon-Maitland District School Board (Anglophone 'The Learning Hub')
  - Sioux Hudson Literacy Council (Aboriginal ) 'Good Learning Anywhere'
  - Coalition Ontarienne de Formation des Adultes (Francophone )
  - George Brown College (Deaf ) 'Deaf Learn Now'
  - College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading 'Academic & Career Entrance Program / ACE Distance'
- AlphaPlus is a support organisation working with all five programs
  - Managed the three-year pilot project to identify delivery models
  - Trained many instructors in Moodle now working in e-Channel
  - Supports onsite programs with tech-enabled solutions to prepare learners for participation in e-Channel programs

# Blended Learning PD, Moodle Training, Resources, and Research



- Digital Educators, TechTuesdays, Knowledge Transfer webinars
- Moodle Training (facilitated and self-guided)
- Moodle course hosting for literacy educators
- Web-Index of online resources (Delicious and Diigo)
- Instructional Resources (Work, Health, Money, Learning, Share)
- Research reports (social media, program case studies, etc.)
- Podcasts with literacy instructors using technology (iTunes)

<http://www.alphaplus.ca>

Thank  
you!

← → ↻ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imBSK-u7uQM> ☆ ☰

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Photo Story #2

 AlphaPlusVideo

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