



ALRC TECH TIPS

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Welcome to the September issue of ALRC Tech Tips. We hope you find these brief ideas helpful. Please feel free to contact us with any tech ideas you would like to share with other programs. This is your forum.

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ALRC is on the Web!
www.thecenterweb.org

Peruse and Use:

Professional Development Online

Adult Education teachers meet state requirements for professional development through attending face-to-face workshops and conferences, reading approved research-based texts, or taking online courses. Universities, literacy organizations, state professional development agencies, and government departments all may offer online training. Some of these courses are free and some are fee-based. Individual program directors determine which courses are eligible for professional development and how many hours credit will be given. The following are some examples of current offerings.

FREE



ELCivicsOnline

<http://www.elcivicsonline.org>

ELCivicsOnline is an extensive resource. It is valuable for most adult education teachers. The web site contains four courses, three tutorials, and over 30 content modules. While the tutorials and content modules have broad application, the courses are specifically for ESL teachers wishing to incorporate

EL/Civics into their instruction. ELCivicsOnline was produced under a grant from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

Sample course: *The Naturalization Process*

Sample Tutorial: *Adapting Materials*

Sample Content Module: *The First Settlers*

ELL-U (National Adult English Language Learning Network)

<http://www.ell-u.org/>

OVAE sponsors this site to provide professional development to adult education ESL teachers. It offers both study circles and online courses.

Sample offering: *Teaching Vocabulary: Research-Based Vocabulary Instruction*

GED Test Information: Kentucky Educational Television (KET)

<http://www.ket.org/gedtestinfo/>

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) presents a series of detailed modules describing and discussing the present GED exam.

Modules: *Orientation, Mathematics, Writing, Critical Thinking*

Professional StudiesAE.org: World Education – ProLiteracy

<http://207.10.202.20/home/>

This web site, co-authored by World Education and ProLiteracy, offers a selection of courses for adult education professionals. Most are free.

Sample offering: *Teaching Learners What Reading is All About*
Health Literacy: New Field New Opportunities

The Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC) is a member of the IL Service Center Network.



We will be using **Go To Meeting** for our online training. Additional information will be available soon. The first sessions begin in October.

Minnesota Literacy Council <http://online.themlc.org/>

Many states have professional development for teachers employed in those states. Some welcome out-of-state participants, some do not. Minnesota allows anyone to access the courses, but those who are from out of state cannot submit assignments to be evaluated.

Sample offerings: *ESL Classroom Volunteer Training*
Lesson Planning

Florida Tech Net

http://www.floridatechnet.org/Nationwide_Overview_of_PD.pdf

This 37-page PDF document contains a listing of online professional development courses available for educators in adult education.

FEE-BASED

AE Pro

<http://www.aeprofessional.org/pricing.htm>

These courses are designed and supervised by the Center for Literacy Studies at the University of Tennessee and the Ohio Literacy Center at Kent State University. No college credit is given. Sample offering: *Comprehensive Reading and Strategies Help*

Fee: \$1200 (if the state or other organizational entity provides a facilitator)

Central Piedmont College

<http://cce.cpcc.edu/leadership-management/esl-instructor-fast-track-training>

ESL Instructor Fast Track is a five-module, online course for prospective adult ESL instructors. Certificates are given by the website to indicate completion. Recognition of the certificates is, of course, up to individual programs and ICCB.

Fee: \$263.00

New Readers Press

<http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=6500>

New Readers Press, a division of ProLiteracy, offers many online courses for adult educators.

Sample offerings: *Foundations of Teaching Adult Numeracy*
Adult Student Persistence

Fee: \$179.00

TESOL Online Education Programs

http://www.tesol.org/s_tesol/seccss.asp?CID=244&DID=1716

The national organization, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), has courses and seminars for ESL teachers in K-12 and adult education. The seminars are free, courses have a fee.

Sample offering:

English Language Learners who have Special Needs

Fee: \$310 (TESOL Member) \$400 nonmember

UCLA Extension

https://www.uclaextension.edu/teachers/r/k12ProDev_AECT.aspx

Some universities offer special professional development seminars along with longer credit-bearing courses. These online courses, offered by UCLA, are two to eleven sessions in length.

Sample offering: *Assessment of English Language Learners*

Fees: \$99 - \$785

This Month's Feature

Professional development is much more than amassing a predetermined number of hours. It is sharing ideas, trying out new techniques, and being involved in research, bringing the knowledge gained back to the classroom. Reading and commenting on an Internet blog is an excellent way to learn and communicate new ideas. These are some adult education blogs that have been commended for their excellence.

Literacy Now Blog

National Center for Family Literacy

<http://www.famlit.org/blog/>

This national agency blog informs readers about family literacy grants and opportunities, provides special downloads, and discusses challenges of parenting.

Adult Literacy Education: David Rosen

<http://davidrosen.wordpress.com/>

David Rosen reports on events in adult education, research in adult learning and technology, how this research applies to the classroom, and other items of interest to adult educators. He provides links to a number of interesting adult education blogs.

Teaching ESL to Adults

<http://www.teaching-esl-to-adults.com/index.html>

This is a blog written by an ESL tutor who has a TESOL certification. It is quite comprehensive especially in the area of grammar.

Close Up

<http://cerij.wordpress.com/>

These reflections of an adult ESL teacher are funny and insightful. They will certainly touch a chord in others in the field.



For creating a classroom blog, Wordpress (<http://en.wordpress.com>), offers free templates, online help, and free hosting. All a new user has to do is sign up, fill out a template, and start writing. The blog can be completely public, public but not included in search engines, or private which only members can access. A blog can be:

- For students in a class to correspond with each other and the teacher on any topic that is relevant to the class and the discussion.
- For teachers in the same or different programs to talk to each other.
- For teachers who are learning about a certain topic and want to discuss this topic with others who are also experimenting with it.
- For those who wish to communicate with adult educators in schools around the world

Have fun.

