Enriching the online learning environment

Let’s think creatively about the possibilities for integrating new learning strategies with online learning.

- Collaborate with each other
- Talk! (to each other)
- Gain new ideas from each other
- Call it “updates” instead of training (for those who resist: “I already know that”)
- Focus is more learner-centered
- Flipped learning techniques
- We should find ways to direct people to appropriate archives, based upon the immediate need/problem of an individual
- Live group cohort ---webinar group learning
- Combining face-to-face with webinar, providing greater discussion and exchange of information

Advantages of online learning

Online learning is now a ubiquitous mode for training. It actually has many advantages in addition to the most expedient one of cost-saving.

- Convenient
- PJs and popcorn!
- “getting into the learning” - less distractions
- Geography no longer a barrier
- Scheduling, cost
- Changes control --- greater control
- Self-paced
- Synchronous and asynchronous—benefits from both worlds
- Personalize your learning environment
- Beyond physical space—focus on learning
- Time to process, time to think
- Shy people and introverts shine online
  - Susan Cain, the Power of Introverts: TEDx introvert call to action
  - More processing, more thoughtful

New ideas, trends, strategies and tools

Learning environments and styles
- One-sized learning does not fit all needs
- Different kinds of learning tools for different needs
- Flexible tools
- Trust is empowering to students
- Adapt & personalize to the individual
- Random learning pace --- listener cannot control the speed of the speaker
- Personal touch and connection
- People need to feel they have a choice
- Not scheduled --- available when you need it
- “squirrels’” learning online
- Get “more bang for your buck” approach
- We are great explorers
- Multi-tasking is not a good thing
- Switching tasks is difficult/distracting

Facilitating learning
- We’re doing learning as much as teaching
- Facilitator’s job is to support learning
- Forcing interactions: teacher-to-student and student-to-student
- Keep learners engaged
- Connect them to teach adults, Get connected
- Looking outside of the library for partnerships

Design for learning
- Change the terminology
- Rewards—not important; respect, self-motivation--- important
- Use patterns—the brain likes patterns
- Visuals in presentations, training
- Content in small chunks
- Support exploration
- Develop creativity in learners
- Cross-discipline ideas
- Let them do it! (takes 6 times)(6 different ways)

Tools
- TED Ed (http://ed.ted.com/)
- Mobile changes everything
- Mobile-based literacy classes
- Mobile learning—at the moment of need—spontaneous and unconstrained access