Using PIAAC’s Education and Skills Online to Examine Adults' Skills Locally

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Using PIAAC's Education and Skills Online to Examine Adults' Skills Locally

Jill Castek, Amy Honisett, Andrew Pizzolato, & Stephen Reder
Portland State University & Multnomah County Library
Oregon, USA
Who We Are

Literacy, Language, and Technology Research Group

- commitment to building literacy and language pathways to social and economic justice.
- Portland State University, Applied Linguistics

Multnomah County Library

- Multnomah County Library enriches lives by fostering diverse opportunities for all people to read, learn and connect.
- Multnomah County Library upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know by providing people of all ages with access and guidance to information and collections that reflect all points of view.
Welcome & Introduction

- What are your roles in adult education?
  - Teacher?
  - Program administrator?
  - Policy maker?
  - Researcher or evaluator?

What settings/systems do you work in?
- K-12?
- Community college?
- CBO?
- Government?
- University?
How did we come to collaborate?

- Fill in Library Digital Equity Work: History of supporting life long learning; major technology access and training point; over one million wifi sessions last year

- Fill in LLTR Digital Equity Work: LW, BTOP and IMLS Research Project

- Connecting Local and National Efforts
Digital Equity in Libraries

- Details about the grant
What is PIAAC?
What is PIAAC
PIAAC in Libraries

- Identify skills gap in library patrons
- Support learning across the lifespan in critical areas
- Target services to shore up skills in the community
- Library as learning center; access point to achieve
- What are patrons 21st century needs?
- Data to identify community needs
- Libraries a constant presence across the country even as adult ed services vary widely...potential to spread a replicable process

COABE, 2015                     Denver, CO
What is PSTRE?

● Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments
● Bounded simulated environment
● More about reading, thinking, information literacy than about mastery of digital skills
● Computer adaptive test
● Show example item?
● What does it do, what does it not do? Cognitive assessment doesn’t measure affective domain...personal relevance, resilience, stick-with-it-ness, focus...carrying the task through multiple materials / multiple screen navigation
● How are results reported? What do they tell us?

COABE, 2015                     Denver, CO
Digital Problem Solving in this project

- Surveying library staff
- Surveying the community
- Mapping PSTRE skills on to common library tasks
- Library as a technology rich environment context in which problem solving takes place
- PSTRE assessment out-of-context of real place or personal relevance...library as one potential context for these skills
Project Aims

- People are using technology in areas that include civic, ...
- Ten common things people do in the library: 1, 2, 3...10
- Understand how we can guide and instruct so that people can accomplish these tasks and achieve the goals
  - Are we offering instruction on the right topics?
  - Helping people at the important point of need?
  - Targeting services to the right patrons? Who are we missing?
Mapping the Tasks

- How does the PSTRE framework map on to a common library task?
- Look at job skills map. Provides insight into how real world activities align with PSTRE framework.
- Provide handout for people to fill in tasks relevant from their context onto map.
- How could mapping real world tasks to an assessment like this one be relevant to your context?
Mapping Done so far

- Common library tasks
- Multiple perspectives on these tasks, how would different groups (librarians, educators, test makers, patrons) conceptualize the skills needed to accomplish these tasks? Uncover assumptions about how people engage in problem solving and library services.
- Where will we find the assessment aligns?
Learn More about our Project