



USING DIGITAL, SOCIAL, AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES (DSMTs) FOR YOUR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Lisa Fleet, Karla Simmons, Vernon Curran, *Office of Professional and Educational Development*; Diana L. Gustafson, *Community Health and Humanities*; Lyle Wetsch, *Business Administration*

ABSTRACT: Poster (3H)

- Purpose:** Self-directed learning (SDL) activities are a recognized type of informal adult learning across many continuing professional development systems. The expansive growth of DSMTs has created new opportunities for connecting with information and colleagues. The purpose of this survey is to explore adult learners' perceptions and experiences with SDL and continuing professional education (CPE).
- Methods:** Online survey-questionnaire
- Results:** There were n=556 respondents, the majority of whom were nurses. Benefits to using DSMTs reported by survey respondents (mean scores out of 4) include improved access to information (mean 3.51), potential for enhanced knowledge acquisition (mean 3.45), and enables me to stay up-to-date (mean 3.44). A main barrier reported to using DSMTs (mean out of 4) includes cost of some apps, courses, etc. (mean 3.07). Respondents report using webinars (81.1%), healthcare websites (76.8%), online courses (70.7%), and online journal databases (57.9%) to meet their CPE learning needs. Forty-three percent (43.0%) report using YouTube; 29.5% report using podcasts or other archived resources.
- Conclusion:** The findings suggest that DSMTs are growing as a key resource to support the SDL needs of health professionals. They are facilitating greater 'point-of-care' learning and enabling more efficient ways of seeking out information. However, several factors influence the adoption and use of DSMTs to support 'just-in-time' learning, such as access, connectivity, perceptions of use, and professionalism.