

An Annotated Chronology Of Landmarks In The History And Development Of Adult Education



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The Chronology Begins

The Early Years in the U.S.

- 1727
 - The “Junto” established by Benjamin Franklin
- 1826
 - First Lyceum organized by Josiah Holbrook
- 1833
 - First public library in Peterborough, NH



The Chronology Goes On - Entering Manufacturing Era

- 1834
 - Founding of the first evening school, Louisville, KY
- 1862
 - The Land Grant Act establishing state colleges and universities
- 1874
 - Founding of the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY



The 20th Century Brings Many Adult Education Opportunities

- 1912

- The Smith-Lever Act sets up Cooperative Extension Service – initially just for adults

- 1924

- National Education Association creates the Department of Adult Education

- 1926

- American Association of Adult Education organized



The Shaping of the Modern ERA – the 1928-1950

- 1928

- Thorndike publishes adult learn. research
Lindeman publishes *Meaning of Adult Educ.*

- 1930s

- Americanization movement caps off its
education of millions of immigrants

- 1940s

- The G. I. Bill enables millions of veterans
to obtain a college education

Adult Education Momentum in the 1950s



- 1951

- Fund for Adult Education set up by the Ford Foundation

- 1951

- Adult Education Association of the U.S.A established

- 1952

- National Association of Public School Adult Educators established



The Federal Government's Enhancing Role in the 1960s

- 1964

- The Economic Opportunity Act provides funds for Adult Basic Education

- 1965

- The Higher Education Act provides funds for community service activities

- 1966

- The federal Adult Education Act

Adult Education Comes Into Its Own – the 1970s



- 1970s:
 - Graduate programs in adult education expand across the country (and world)
- 1972-74
 - The National Adult Education Think Tank Project
- 1976
 - The Lifelong Learning Amendment



Adult Education Since the 1970s – Some Examples

- International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame
- Literature and research in adult education expands tremendously
- Adult education evolves through relationships with other disciplines
- Literacy efforts continually increase (ProLiteracy headquarters in Syracuse)
- International Society for Self-Directed Learning with its journal



Some Useful Resources

- From your bibliography: Gratton (1955); Knowles (1962); Stubblefield (1988); Stufflebiel and Keane (1994)
- Internet links:
 - <http://roghiemstra.com/historychron.htm>
 - <http://www.naepdc.org/issues/AEAHistort.htm>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adult_education
 - <http://roghiemstra.com/history.html>



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