Health Literacy and Adult Education: Responding to New Health Care Realities

Health literacy is essential to improving health outcomes and empowering communities to manage their health and wellbeing. Adult education classrooms have long played a critical role in this empowerment process. But now, the question is: How have adult education programs and instructors responded to new healthcare realities, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the expansion of digital technologies, rising health care costs, climate change, and the prevalence of health misinformation on social media? In response to this question, Adult Literacy Education: The International Journal of Literacy, Language, and Numeracy is seeking submissions for a special issue on health literacy. The issue aims to promote broader discussion and critical reflection on the ways the adult education system is responding to the current moment in health care.

We are interested in submissions that explore questions that center the health literacy experiences of adult learners within healthcare systems.

- How do adult learners’ health care practices navigate new digital technologies (e.g., patient portals, artificial intelligence in health care, social media in healthcare)? How is this new digital health landscape shaping the ways digital literacy and health literacy are addressed in the classroom?
- What are adult learners’ numeracy practices in relation to health care, and how can teaching productively inform health numeracy?
- In what ways are the health care experiences of adult learners from newcomer immigrants/refugee communities changing the way health literacy is integrated into language learning classrooms?
- What are the opportunities in adult education classrooms for exploring the linkages between health literacy, climate change, and environmental justice?

We encourage submissions from researchers and adult education practitioners working in a variety of contexts and roles.

Submission Categories
We invite submissions in 3 categories: (1) Research Articles, including literature reviews, scoping reviews, (2) Reports from the Field, and (3) Viewpoint articles. For more details on each type of paper, please visit http://www.proliteracy.org/ale-journal/. All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review.

Timeline
- Submit letter of intent indicating interest in submitting manuscript (optional): Nov. 1, 2023
- Submit manuscript for preliminary feedback from the Special Issue Guest Editor prior to submitting manuscript for peer review (optional): Jan. 15, 2024
- Submit manuscript for peer review: May 1, 2024
- Anticipated publication of the special issue: June 1, 2025

For more information about the Special Issue, contact Guest Editor: Dr. Maricel G. Santos, Professor and Chair of English, San Francisco State University, mgsantos@sfsu.edu.

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