

## Recommended Reading: *Trends and Issues in Instructional Design and Technology*

Reviewed by Susan M. Frey

**T**he field of instructional design and technology (IDT) is often misunderstood. As a relatively new discipline that is still defining itself, a host of definitions abound. Trying to explain IDT to the uninitiated can be daunting and conquering the canon is confusing. *Trends and Issues in Instructional Design* attempts to remedy this conundrum by providing in a single volume a collection of writings on a wide variety of topics germane to the subject. Editors Robert Reiser, from Florida State University, and John Dempsey, from the University of South Alabama, are leaders in the field and have included an impressive cross-section of notable scholars and practitioners to write this book including Walter Dick, Marcy Driscoll, Don Ely, Kent Gustafson, David Hawkrige, Mike Hannafin, John Keller, David Jonassen, David Merrill, Charlie Reigeluth, Rita Richey, and Allison Rossett.

This is not a collection of reprints from the journal literature. Each chapter is original and conforms to a standard format, which makes the diverse content more organized and easier to digest. Although this work has been used as a textbook in IDT introductory and survey courses since its publication, as the editors point out, "Many textbooks in the IDT field focus on the skills ...however we believe that professionals in the field should be able to do more than just perform skills... they should also be able to clearly define the nature of the field (vii). This is exactly what the authors do, and they do it beautifully. There are seven sections, all focusing on various aspects of instructional design, instructional technology, and performance technology. The first section attempts to define the field and provides a brief history of IDT; section two gives an overview of various theories and models; section three reviews the evaluation and managing of instructional programs and products; section four covers human performance technology; section five

addresses the trends and issues of IDT in a variety of real world environments; section six provides information on how to get a job and succeed in the field; and section seven concludes with information on future trends.

Each section begins with an abstract that introduces the section topic and prepares the reader with thoughtful insights. Each chapter begins with a brief editor's introduction that showcases that chapter's foci. A chapter outline is also provided to help with orientation. Appended to every chapter are two elements that make this book an excellent textbook and self-study guide. The Application Questions area lists questions related to chapter content that can be used for class discussion, personal review, or as a springboard for term paper topics, and the References area provides additional reading that can assist any professional or graduate student who would like to delve further into that chapter's subject matter. For anyone wishing to orient themselves to a particular aspect of IDT, using these references can be key to their success. As a textbook; an introduction for self-study; or a review for practitioners this book is a must-have for anyone who works in IDT.

### Recommended Reading

Reiser, R, & Dempsey, J. (2007). *Trends and Issues in Instructional Design and Technology* (2nd edition). New Jersey: Prentice Hall. ISBN 0131708058.

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