Malcolm Knowles: Andragogy

Part of being an effective facilitator involves understanding how adults learn best. Andragogy (adult learning) as a theory sets forth certain assumptions about how adults learn. Andragogy emphasizes the value of learning as process, parity between the trainer and the learner, and problem-based and collaborative approaches to learning.

Andragogy originated in Europe in the 1950’s and was pioneered in the United States in the 1970’s by Malcolm Knowles, a practitioner and theorist of adult education.

Knowles identified six principles of adult learning:

- Adults are internally motivated and self-directed
- Adults bring life experience and knowledge to learning
- Adults are goal oriented
- Adults are relevancy oriented
- Adults are practical
- Adult learners desire respect

Notes:

Graphic from: http://web.utk.edu/~start6/knowles/malcolm_knowles.gif
Text summarized from: http://www.qotfc.edu.au/resource/?page=65375