Journal Readings 9/3/08

David Wiley: "A Definition of the Field"

Robert Reiser: "A History of Instructional Design and Technology Part One"

Robert Reiser: "A History of Instructional Design and Technology Part Two"

Summary:

The articles seek to provide an overview of the historical changes and impact of the field of Instructional Design and/or Instruction Technology since the early 1900's. Each attempted to explain the numerous changes that the profession underwent during this time shaping it into the eclectic disciplines and practitioners that it consist of today. The supports for the articles is very strong as the research is very deeply grounded in well studied periods of time, mostly decades, and seemed to spawn from the practical need of self-instruction of mass-audiences with the end need to somehow validate the findings through performance to ensure that actual learning or education was in fact taking place?

Reflection/Impact:

What I found interesting is that all of the journals attempted to define the field into a nice neat definition when maybe it is not meant to have one? When Wiley quoted his friend "Come big or stay at home" referring to what I inferred this was people working or claiming to work or hold a stake in profession need to either need to be totally in or totally out. Well, if that is the case if he is somehow the grand wizard or appointed one over profession then I may choose to get out as when the field is limited by who can belong and who cannot by how much they contribute then that is when it will become limited and boring! I was highly interested in the historical significance of the profession and contributions that the numerous professionals have made throughout United States history, especially in terms of the military during World War II.

Being in the military, I am currently working on various projects that incorporate and encompass various models, designs, technologies, etc… to overcome instructional design and technology. It is amazing how one person's perception can influence or re-influence the total outcome of a multi-million dollar program. I would be ashamed if other professionals would be restricted from contributing in an open dialogue in this profession even if they are not COMING BIG! Therefore, over the last several years, I have come to discover that this field whatever it may be called is vast and it has the unique ability to morph into whatever is needed at any given time in relating to technological advancements and the education and instruction needed to accomplish whatever it is we are trying to do or want the learner to learn.

When asked by friends what is my background is in or what is it that I do, I explain that I sit down with the likes of someone who designs a VCR and I would be the one who would write the instruction manual or provide the instruction on how to set the time on it so it won't blink anymore. Then they scratch their head and say "well may VCR time still blinks and I respond exactly job security!"