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Adults Learning Maths - A Research Forum

ALM-1

Proceedings
of the Inaugural Conference
of

Adults Learning Maths - A Research Forum

22-24 July 1994
at
Fircroft College Birmingham UK

compiled by
Diana Coben Chair of ALM

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Disclaimer

These papers were compiled by Dr Diana Coben on behalf of the Steering Group of *Adults Learning Maths - A Research Forum* (ALM). The views expressed in individual papers are the contributors' own; they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Steering Group and no responsibility can be taken for them by ALM.

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Preface

Diana Coben, Goldsmiths' College, University of London, London, UK
ALM Chair

Adults Learning Maths - A Research Forum (ALM) is a new international research forum bringing together researchers, practitioners and academics concerned with adults learning mathematics. ALM puts people in touch with each other, providing a framework for collaboration and helping to stimulate and develop research plans.

ALM was formally established at the Inaugural Conference in July 1994, attended by researchers and practitioners from the Republic of Ireland, The Netherlands, France, the USA as well as the UK, as a research forum with the following aim:

> *to promote the learning of mathematics by adults through an international forum which brings together those engaged and interested in research and developments in the field of adult mathematics* teaching and learning.*
> ** Within ALM we understand the term 'mathematics' to include numeracy'.*

ALM stems from an article (published in *Adults Learning* 4, 1, 15-16, September 1992) in which I argued the case for more research into adults learning mathematics - by practitioners as well as academics - and for greater access to relevant research in a variety of disciplines. I called for the establishment of a research forum to bring people together to share research findings and generate new research agendas.

There was an overwhelming response from all over the world. There was clearly both a need and a demand for such a forum, and after consultations with colleagues, an initial one-day conference was called in November 1993, attended by approximately fifty people from the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Many others, who could not attend, wrote asking to be kept informed of developments and some offered to become 'foreign correspondents' for the new forum.

To quote from the *Adults Learning* article:

> *We are long past the pioneering era, but numeracy is still the poor relation of adult literacy. What we need is the recognition of numeracy as a field worthy of serious study.*

These papers and the conference from which they stem, are intended as a step towards achieving that long-overdue recognition.

Membership of ALM is open to individuals and institutions. For details, please write to me at Department of Educational Studies, Goldsmiths College, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW,UK

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Conference Papers

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