A Comparative Evaluation of Online In-Service vs. Traditional Training for Arizona Police Officers

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Police Training in Arizona – The Problem

- Requirement for continuing training
- Arizona does not have an effective means of providing online continuing training to police officers
- Is online learning an effective way to provide in-service training?
    - Can police officers learn online?

Purpose of the Study

- Purpose of the study was to compare the effectiveness of an online presentation of the Domestic Violence Investigations course offered by the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department to a traditional, classroom based version of the same course
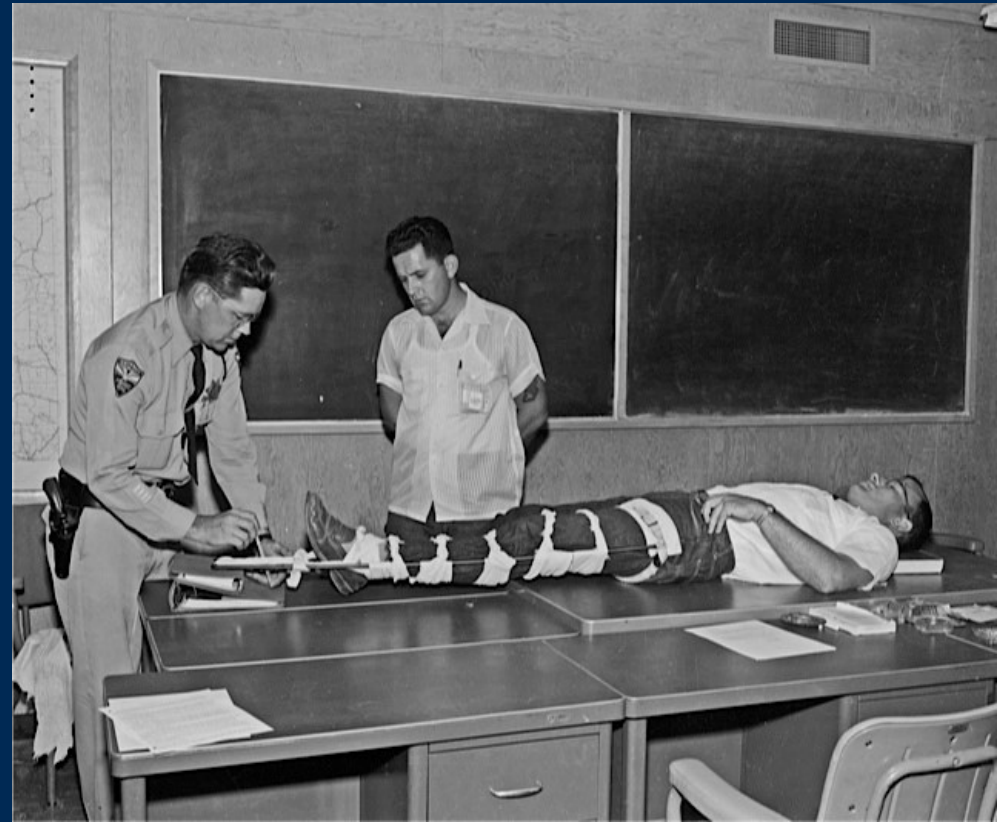
Research Design and Procedures

- Mixed methods research design
  - Quantitative – demographics, online learning survey, pre- and post-test
  - Qualitative - Interviews
- Quantitative Data Analysis
  - Descriptive Statistics
  - Inferential Statistics
    - Paired and Independent Samples t-test
    - ANOVA
    - Pearson Correlations
- Qualitative Data Analysis
  - Basic qualitative analysis using NVivo 12

Findings

- Sixty-one participants (QUAN) and six interviews

- Learning occurred in both training modes

- The online DVI course was an effective learning environment

- Quantitative and Qualitative data indicated a difference in effectiveness between the online and classroom sessions

Application to Practice

- Police officers want adult learning techniques
- Online learning is a viable option for agencies
- "Flipping the classroom"
- Potential to "flip" the police academy

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