

Studies indicate that the gap between women and men when it comes to technological competence is shrinking, but it remains very real across age groups. Nonetheless, if you cannot handle PowerPoint or do not feel comfortable signing on to teach a distance education component of your curriculum, get the help you need. It can be great fun and there is no going back. **On-line courses** are the wave of the future.

## Confidence

Many women enter our field with low self-esteem and even less confidence in their abilities. This can plague us as well as our students. It shows up in many ways, including jealousies, nasty competition, and undercutting one another. Many women come by their lack of confidence honestly, because we are still discriminated against due to sexual, racial, national, and class prejudice.

Confidence is hard to instill, easy to undermine. Hopefully, having information, such as that provided by this book, and scheduling regular meetings with friends who are in the best position to assess one's skills, will go a long way toward increasing our individual and collective confidence. Therapy can help, though the problem ought never to be seen as only individual but always as rooted in the often unjust culture in which we find ourselves as women.

There is no substitute for the rewarding hard work, the projects completed, the goals reached to increase our confidence over time. Still, the most effective route to self-confidence for women is to instill it early in our girls, and reinforce it with every step, something institutions and organizations need to assume as their part in this project called equality. Support and **networking** are good ways to reinforce one another's confidence.

## Confidentiality

Confidentiality is understood in many professions as maintaining absolute privacy of privileged information. Realistically, in our circles, it is somewhere between the seal of the confessional