

EDC Grant Midterm Report 2013

Date: January 20, 2014

Title of Project:

Research on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Annotated Literature Database

Principal Investigator:

Dr. Nicola Simmons

Overview of the project:

The purpose of the database is to compile key literature about teaching and learning to make it available for university and college scholars from across all disciplines who wish to improve their practice or conduct research pertaining to these topics. The project focuses on the creation of a web-based database of short summaries of key literature and resources on topics about post-secondary teaching and learning. Each entry will comprise a topic heading, a list of alternative keywords, a brief overview of the current thinking on that topic, a short list of annotated key literature, and a concise description of ongoing debates in the literature.

Progress toward stated goals of the project at the midterm point:

Phase 1: Collection and summary of resources (September 2013 to April 2014)

A number of articles under roughly a dozen topics have been annotated (for uploading to the website) and summarized thus far, with gratitude to Randy McCreary, the graduate student on the project. We are comfortably under way with this work, though realize that, as indicated in our original proposal, we are creating a prototype with the hope of applying for a larger grant to continue the work. In the meantime, one of the researcher's classes will be contributing to the creation of topics as a class assignment. In the late spring, once the material is on the web platform, a call will be made to the EDC listserv and also to SoTL community listservs to welcome contributions to the website (and suggestions for edits).

Phase 2: Creation of Web Platform and Information Upload (January 2014 to July 2014)

Arrangements have been made with a student who wishes to work on the project as an independent study credit to design the website interface. We anticipate using Wordpress as the platform. Various formats for ease of information searching are currently being reviewed.

Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:

So far, so good!

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned:

No submission was made to EDC or STLHE this year because of the very preliminary stage of the work; however next year a submission will be made to both, and possibly also to ISSoTL.

The website will be public and will be linked to/from the EDC website. Part of the dissemination plan is to invite colleagues to join the project once the prototype is constructed such that the resource continues to grow.