EDC Grant Final Report

Title of Project:
The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Collaborative

Principal Investigator:
Gary Hunt
Thompson Rivers University

Co-investigators:
Peter Arthur, University of British Columbia, Okanagan
Heather Hurren, University of British Columbia, Okanagan
Janine Hirtz, University of British Columbia, Okanagan
Sylvia Currie, BCcampus

Overview of the project:
We developed a website that is a portal into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Visitors can access a variety of features related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. See Fig. 1 for our conceptual model. The features include joining as a member, searching and reviewing projects that others have posted, searching and connecting with collaborators on a topic under consideration for study, sharing preliminary results of research, and setting up a group working space. We hope that the website will be used by people engaged in SoTL research and those exploring the possibility of starting a project. The website is intended provide a valued connection between institutions and researchers that will introduce, encourage and nurture the development of SoTL projects.
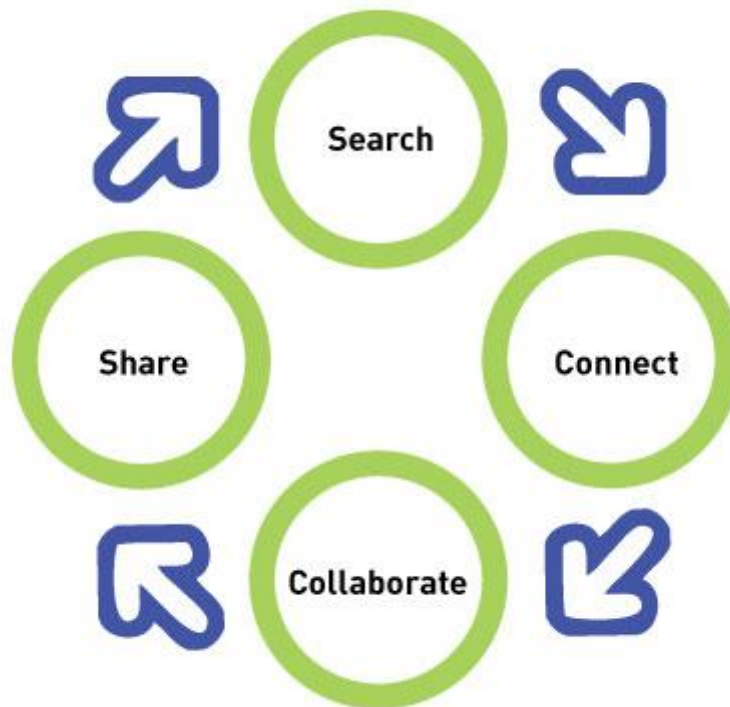

Figure 1. Conceptual model of the website elements.

Educational Findings and Outcomes

The site can be viewed at, http://sotlcollaborative.ca/ .

All of the site functionality for the primary features is in place. There are currently about 180 registered members.

Hosting of the site was moved from BCcampus to iOnline, http://ionline.ca/ and we purchased the domain name "sotlcollaborative".

The new STLHE Special Interest Group on SoTL will very likely use the website as a communication and sharing tool.

Based on the feedback we have received, we plan to add information on resources for conducting SoTL research that would be valuable to novices. These will include links to methodology and journals that publish SoTL papers. Also, we currently have provision for private groups but these are not visible to non-members. We will make the private group names visible so people can request membership if they see a group that interests them.

Budget

The award for phase 2 of the project was for $2,464. The entire amount was paid to iOnline for development costs and hosting. There are no funds remaining in the account.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project

Over the past year we have presented an overview of the website features at three conferences: The Centennial Symposium for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, November 12, 2011; the University of British Columbia-Okanagan Learning Conference, May 2, 2012; and STLHE, June 22, 2012.