

Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) GRANTS 2013 Final Report

Title of Project:

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

Principal Investigator:

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Overview of the project:

This project focused on the creation of a web-based database of short summaries of key literature and resources on topics about post-secondary teaching and learning. The intent is that it will be useful to university and college scholars from across all disciplines who wish to improve their practice or conduct research pertaining to these topics.

Each entry comprises a topic heading, a brief overview of the current thinking on that topic, 2-3 key literature annotations, and a concise description of ongoing debates in the literature. Key literature was identified based on Google Scholar citation counts; the annotation process is identified on the website. As indicated in our original proposal, we are creating a prototype with the hope of applying for a larger grant to continue the work.

The website can be found at <https://researchsotl.wordpress.com/>

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

Articles pertaining to roughly a dozen topics were annotated for uploading to the website. My gratitude goes to Randy McCreary, the graduate student on the project. Some students from the researcher's class also contributed topics as an alternative class assignment.

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

Much thanks goes to Cheryl Vallender, the winter term graduate student on the project for designing the website interface and writing a number of additional annotations. Various free website formats were reviewed for ease of construction and navigation; we have used Wordpress.

This ends the granting period for the project, however, further work will be done:

Phase 3: Further development (January 2015 to Dec 2015)

Additional colleagues were consulted for topic ideas. SoTL colleagues across Canada were invited to become members of an editorial board; suggestions for website edits from this group were implemented.

Phase 4: Going public (November 2015 to February 2016)

Presentations on the beta stage of the project were made at several conferences (see below). The project was formally released to the EDC, STLHE, and ISSoTL communities on February 24, 2016. Initial feedback has been very positive.

Educational findings/outcomes

The resource will be added to on an ongoing basis and is an open access resource available to all. Based on initial feedback, it is anticipated that there will be significant use of the resource.

Budget

The grant amount was \$2488.70. Of that,

\$ 971.60	went to a graduate student to write entries (winter term 2014)
\$1475.11	went to a graduate student to create the website and write some more entries (fall term 2014)
\$ 47.75	went to printing of poster (see below) (covered shortfall of \$5.76 myself*)
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\$2494.46	Total spent
-\$2488.70	Less grant amount
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\$ (5.76)	Covered by researcher

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project:

- Simmons, N. (2016). *SoTL Points of entry: An annotation database of research on teaching and learning in higher education*. Presented at the Educational Developers Caucus annual conference, Windsor, February.
- Simmons, N. (2015). *Literature annotations: A database of research on teaching and learning in higher education*. Presented at the Symposium on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Mount Royal, November.
- Simmons, N. (2015). *Literature annotations: A database of research on teaching and learning in higher education*. Poster accepted for presentation at the biennial conference of the International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching, July, New Zealand. *(regrettably not presented)*
- Simmons, N. (2015). *Literature annotations: A database of research on teaching and learning in higher education*. Accepted for presentation at the International Study Association on Teachers and Teaching biennial conference, July. *(regrettably not presented)*
- Simmons, N. (2014). *The scholarship of teaching and learning: Database of literature annotations for scholars and practitioners*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, October, Quebec.