

## EDC Grant Midterm Report

**Date:** May 29, 2015

**Title of Project:** Developing the Developer: a one year development plan and resource for new educational developers

**Principal Investigator:** Natasha May

**Co-investigators:** Yelin Su, Celia Popovic, Nancy Turner, Mandy Frake-Mistak (new),  
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### **Overview of the Project: (from the grant proposal)**

The project will produce a one year professional development plan and supporting materials for centres of teaching support to induct and develop new educational developers. While it may be of use for any new hire, the focus will be on relatively new entrants to the profession. The work will be informed by and align with the goals of the EDC action group on Mentoring.

The project will involve resource identification and gathering to add to the initial list of resources created by the EDC action group on mentoring. The resources are likely to include a list of development opportunities available within Canada, such as ISW facilitation, access to online courses, links to a suggested reading list (e.g. the EDC list on Zotero), recommended conferences and networking opportunities and resources intended to prompt critical reflection on Educational Development practice. Users, both new developers and EDC mentors, will be encouraged to co-create the resources and the environment will include the facility to annotate items according to which were useful or not and why or why not. The resource will be a living document continuously updated and improved over time.

By connecting into the EDC mentoring group we hope to have the resources connected or housed on the EDC website thus providing access to the resources and drawing new developers into the broader community and the additional development support provided by this community in doing so.

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

We have a template design for this resource, which incorporates everything mentioned in the proposal. We also have a plan for how to populate it, disseminate it and obtain feedback on it to incorporate. We hired a Research Assistant who has completed substantial research to determine what to include in the initial draft of the resource for review by colleagues.

At the Teaching Commons we recently revamped our website to make it more user friendly, easier to navigate and most importantly AODA compliant. This gives us a reliable platform in which to house the resource. Moreover, we have undergone training through this process in order to ensure the resource itself is AODA compliant as well. We are proposing to house the resource on our own website so that we can take responsibility for updating and maintaining it, but would like to include a link on the EDC website.

During the EDC Institute we collected a variety of references and resources, including key people to reach out to, to assist us in developing this resource and also to include within it. Following the Institute, we contacted a number of individuals (Educational Developers) asking for permission to use their resources or inviting them to contribute to the resource. We also compiled a reading list and have been reviewing all material on this list and writing a concise description for each item.

**Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:**

In February 2015, the original Principal Investigator, Ellen Sims, left the Teaching Commons at York University to pursue a career opportunity in the UK. This meant that a new Principal Investigator had to be assigned and brought up to speed on the project. This delayed progress so we were unable to have a draft of the plan and resource prepared to share during the EDC Institute for feedback. However, during the EDC Institute we were in a position to do research, gather references and resources to develop the plan as well as make connections with other Educational Developers who we can later reach out to for feedback. Our new proposed deadline to complete a draft to disseminate is September 1, 2015.

**Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned:  
(from the grant proposal)**

We will publish a guide which will be housed on a website which will be continually updated. If it is considered suitable this may also be published as a Green Guide. We will also present our work at EDC in 2016. We intend to pilot the resources with new developers; we will elicit feedback and document the development and pilot process for potential publications.