

White Paper

EDTC 805
Antoinette Pinder-Darling

Summary

This white paper discusses how the researcher proposes to determine the need for rethinking library best practices and exposing students to 21st century educational models that can help undergraduates make better use of library resources and aid in the research process.

Background/Problem: An investigation will be done on the enhancement and availability of library services to undergraduate students through the use of educational technology such as the MOODLE course management system (CMS). The target audience will be undergraduate students aged eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35). An outcome of the research will be to provide an evaluation of how students will benefit from the instruction and exposure to electronic resources, while strengthening their digital learning and improving library research skills.

Solution: The researcher plans to investigate the research problem using a qualitative design and case-study approach. Data will be collected from questionnaires/surveys issued to instructors /e-tutors and their students for assessing quality and for determining whether there is an effective library presence in the online/e-learning classroom environment. A “needs assessment” will be administered or conducted for implementing proper library/CMS integration.

The issue will be investigated at The College of The Bahamas (New Providence campus).

Research Questions: How can undergraduate learning improve from a library presence in MOODLE?

SQ1: How can librarians work along with technology educators’ to make library resources more visible to students?

SQ2: What strategies can be used to incorporate research or library resources into course materials and the MOODLE course website?

SQ3: What Web 2.0 tools or mobile devices are useful for undergraduate learning?

Background/Review of literature topics:

- 1) Educational technology standards in undergraduate education
- 2) Promotion and provision of library resources in course management systems to distance education students
- 3) Improving undergraduate research skills (for on campus and distance education students)
- 4) Strengthening digital learning, research and literacies using Web 2.0 tools



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The researcher would like to improve the provision of library services in the distance education environment among undergraduate students within New Providence, Bahamas. As a doctoral student, it is believed by the researcher that this research will either add to the body of knowledge that currently exists in Caribbean

literature or this study will fill some gaps in the literature. Conducting this research will also help her to accomplish one of her targets in her professional growth plan which is to become a technology leader in the region—research will help to drive this passion.

Goals to Accomplish

- 1) To explore the essential elements for understanding and being able to evaluate critically the quality of research.
- 2) Develop the necessary elementary research knowledge and skills.
- 3) To become familiar with the research approaches and methodologies; and
- 4) To get guidance for writing up the research and publish in peer-reviewed journals.

Conclusion

As the researcher prepares to conduct this research and become research active—it is important that she help to change the deficiency in research output and culture at her higher education institution. A way forward is to focus on defining this research, critically evaluate the research and methodology. The first step has been accomplished in that a proposal has been prepared in this white paper and the research activity will begin next semester with the data collection and information gathering while getting the guidance needed to complete this research from my doctoral professor(s).

References

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Assessment #2

Grant Proposal

Project Name: Kindle Recreational Reading Club

Project Idea/Background: The goal of this project/initiative is to recruit and train adolescent students “who will read—rather than youth who can read.” (Dechant, 1961, p. 289) Although this statement was made nearly five decades ago, it is relevant today. However, to make reading even more appealing, technology will be emphasized. This initiative will target non-affluent public school students coming from depressed communities such as the Bain & Grant’s Town constituency.

Project Method: The project if successful will creatively reverse the decline of voluntary reading among these adolescents and teach them skills for improving their general knowledge. It will also assist with introducing such students to digital skills which creates the avenue for building 21st century skills outside the formal classroom environment.

Project Objective: To help public school students improve their reading and digital skills—which may advance their education and college readiness, improve occupational outlook and increase their interests in the arts/sciences.

Project Mission: The project’s mission is geared towards building life skills to promote the nation’s public school students to lead safe, healthy, productive and fulfilling lives.

Target Population: 30 students

Funder(s): UNESCO/Bahamas Library Service

Projected Budget Information:

- Total programme budget: **\$8,000**
- Budget Period: **September 2014 – July 2015**
- Amount requested from UNESCO: **\$3,000**
- Amount requested from Bahamas Library Service: **\$5,000**

Non-profit Status: (301) (a) (1)

Proposal Contact: Antoinette Pinder-Darling

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Submission date: October 31, 2014

Antoinette Pinder-Darling
P.O. Box N-4491
Nassau, Bahamas

October 31, 2014

Mrs. Dorcas Bowler, Director
Bahamas Library Services
College Avenue
P.O. Box N-4849
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mrs. Bowler,

I am writing to ask whether the Bahamas Library Services would be interested in receiving a proposal for an adolescent literacy programme for less affluent public school students. As you may know, some schools and libraries are experiencing declines in recreational and voluntary reading among the New Providence student population. The Department of Statistics indicates that lack of English language skills is the major barrier to employment in our area.

The Kindle Recreational Reading Programme is intended to provide to at least thirty students with opportunities to improve their reading/literacy skills through recreational reading and will also allow them to be exposed to using current technology such as the Amazon Kindle.

As a trained literacy tutor, I will offer my skills and services to students through two-hour reading club activities and meetings, twice a week for 40 weeks. The club will be limited to thirty students whom I will break into two groups. As project director, I will assess students' abilities and interests and will work with each group for two hours on a second and third day each week, helping each student prepare for improved and advanced reading levels. All meetings will emphasize 21st century reading skills.

The total cost for the programme is \$8,000. If the Bahamas Library Services were to accept a formal proposal, we would request \$5,000 of this cost. I am awaiting a commitment from UNESCO in the amount of \$3,000 and have begun to prepare a proposal to Bahamas Library Services for the balance; I understand that a request for proposals will be issued in about two months and that grants are expected to be in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range.

I am very excited about the benefits this programme can provide to our public student population—especially those who come from less affluent families and depressed communities. I hope you will consider helping me to develop it. Please call me at (242) 325-4016 if you have any questions. If you'd like a meeting, I'd be happy to set up a meeting with you and your staff. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Antoinette P. Darling

Antoinette P. Pinder-Darling
Project Director