Evolving Your Project Evaluation Methods Toward On-Line Data Collection

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Abstract

Discussion of methods, design, and factors in deciding which technology to use. Demos of self-maintaining workshop evaluation system, technology integration, skills and other surveys.

Long Description

Technology makes it possible to improve the methods for collecting data for projects such as those funded by PT3. While our projects themselves promote the use of technology for teaching, we often fail to take advantage of it for our own purposes. Regis College's PT3 Project and the University of Maine at Farmington's PT3 Project have used this enhancement in varying ways in their evaluation process. The speaker will focus on the institutional and cultural structures that can hinder or assist progress in this area.

In addition, the Regis College Assistant Project Director and her project's External Evaluator will discuss false starts and eventual success while deciding exactly which technology worked best in the end. The Regis project uses a combination of FileMaker and ColdFusion/SQL solutions. The workshop survey system developed by Regis's External Evaluator is a permanent and self-maintaining system that can continue beyond the term of the grant. All the administrator has to do is enter the information for each new workshop and it becomes part of the survey pull-down menu. This on-line system provides instant access to the workshop results, which can then be exported to Excel or sent as an email to any interested parties such as the workshop instructor.

The University of Maine, Farmington's PT3 project "The Electronic Guild" carries out on-line pre- and post-testing to get timely results on project outcomes. Administrative web pages for tracking preservice student's progress in meeting course and certification goals as well as technology skills and integration surveys will be demonstrated.

We will conclude with a summary of the institutional difficulties that must be overcome in order to integrate this kind of assessment possibility into the academic work culture. We will also provide an overview of the range of options for on-line data collection and the applications that make sense for a given situation.

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