Lesson Plans on the Internet: A Critical Appraisal

Robert Hanny, College of William and Mary, USA; Robert Hannafin, College of William and Mary, USA; Ella Donaldson, College of William and Mary, USA

This study focused on the abundance of lesson plans available on the Internet and while no judgement was made about the “goodness” of plans, the study attempted to determine if the lesson plans contained generally accepted qualities that increase usefulness to teachers. 271 Plans were examined for Objectives, Activities, Resources, Usability, and Assessment, across the K-12 spectrum in English, History, Mathematics, and Science. 51% of the sites had objectives that were behavioral, specific and complete. 45% of the Activities were complete enough to be easily followed. 55% presented adequate resources. 53% were usable without adaptation, while only 24% presented valid, usable assessments. Clearly, based on this sample of lesson plans, great care should be exercised when using most of the lesson plans on the Internet.