Pace University
DigitalCommons@Pace

Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics

The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research

5-1-2012

Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute (WebIII) – Are You Connected Project

Christopher John Godfrey PhD
Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Pace University

Hillary J. Knepper PhD
Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Pace University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3

Part of the Computer Sciences Commons, and the Education Commons

Recommended Citation
Godfrey, Christopher John PhD and Knepper, Hillary J. PhD, "Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute (WebIII) – Are You Connected Project" (2012). *Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics.* Paper 74.
http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3/74

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research at DigitalCommons@Pace. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Pace. For more information, please contact rracelis@pace.edu.

Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute (WebIII) – Are You Connected Project

May 29, 2012

Principal Investigators:

Christopher John Godfrey PhD
Psychology
Dyson College of Arts and Science

Hillary J. Knepper, PhD
Public Administration
Dyson College of Arts and Science

A) Please outline your original goals.

The Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute (WebIII) will establish a virtual research institute at Pace University. Faculty and students will examine evolving rules and norms guiding Web 2.0 technologies in professional and civic contexts. WebIII seeks to inform this evolving area through emerging practice and performance research for education professionals, students, mental health clinicians and public policy makers who are employing these technologies. The overarching goal of the Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute is to extend the development of research, evaluation and discussion of how Web 2.0 technologies are used in professional contexts through establishment of a virtual forum.

This is being accomplished through development of

1) An interdisciplinary social media space that provides an ongoing forum for discussion of Web 2.0 use in professional and civic contexts and
2) A virtual lab where students can connect with investigators from across different disciplines. The institute will be introduced through a conference on the use of Web 2.0 in professional and civic contexts to be held at the end of the grant period.

The following objectives support this goal

Objective 1: To enhance undergraduate and graduate level participation in interdisciplinary research projects by December, 2012.

Outcome 1a: Hire two (2) undergraduate and two (2) graduate student research assistants by January, 2012.

Outcome 1b: To receive evaluations and feedback from research assistants at the close of their assistantships.

Objective 2: To conduct at least 4 focus groups of 3-5 individuals each by January, 2012.

Outcome 2: Focus group data analyzed by June, 2012.

Objective 3: To collect at least 1000 completed surveys from individuals and professionals by March, 2012.

Outcome 3: Survey data analyzed by May, 2012.

Objective 4: To establish the Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute Advisory Board by July, 2012.

Outcome 4: Monthly meetings conducted beginning in July, 2012.

Objective 5: Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute is in beta testing by September, 2012.

Outcome 5: Adjustments made to accommodate feedback from beta testing begin by October, 2012.

Objective 6: Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Conference is held in October, 2012

Outcome 6: Participant feedback forms returned and evaluated, November, 2012.

Objective 7: Web 2.0 Virtual Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute launches live, November, 2012.

Outcome 7: Institute is up and running by November, 2012.

Project Timetable/Gantt Chart

		2012											
Objectives/outcome		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1.	*Enhance student participation in projects*												
a.	Hire student research assts.												
b.	Research Asst. evaluation/feedback												
2.	*Conduct focus groups*												
	Focus Group analysis												
3.	*Collect AYC Survey*												
	Survey data analyzed												
4.	*Establish WebIII Advisory Board*												
	WebIII Advisory Board Meetings												
5.	*WebIII beta testing*												
	Adjustments to WebIII beta site												
6.	*Web 2.0 Institute Conference*												
	Conference evaluation												
7.	*WebIII launch*												
	Institute is live												

B) What progress have you made towards your original goals on your project to date?

Objective	**Progress**
Objective 1: To enhance undergraduate and graduate level participation in interdisciplinary research projects by December, 2012.	• **Completed.** Two Public Administration graduate and two undergraduate Psychology research assistants have been hired and are contributing weekly to the on-going research effort One of the graduate assistants serves as the project director. • **Ongoing.** Five additional undergraduate student volunteers are currently working with the Web 2.0 Institute/ Are You Connected Study project. Additional students are expected to join the project in the Fall 2012 term. • **Ongoing.** Students provide evaluation/feedback on their experiences in bi-weekly project meetings. • **Planned (June 2012).** Students will be asked to complete a brief survey of their project experiences to date.
Objective 2: To conduct at least 4 focus groups of 3-5 individuals each by January, 2012.	• **In process.** IRB Approval for the research study was granted in mid-March, 2012. Focus groups are scheduled to begin in June 2012. Focus group questions have been field tested and revised accordingly. Prospective participants have been identified.

Objective	Progress
Objective 3: To collect at least 1000 completed surveys from individuals and professionals by March, 2012.	• **Planned (August 2012).** The survey component is scheduled to occur after the Focus Group data are collected to allow for survey question adaptation based upon focus group data.
Objective 4: To establish the Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute Advisory Board by July, 2012.	• **In process.** Informal recruitment requests have been issued to Psychology and Public Administration Department Faculty. Faculty external to the grant have also been identified from other departments at Pace. We are refining our list of potential members and have drafted an invitation that will be sent out in July, 2012.
Objective 5: Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute is in beta testing by September, 2012.	• **In process.** We have engaged the Pace IT division to develop and house the site. We have provided the IT team with draft specifications and are in the process of collecting content such as faculty, staff and student biographies and pictures, art and information content. One team of student volunteers has been tasked with organizing and cataloguing potential content for the site.
Objective 6: Web 2.0 Interdisciplinary Informatics Conference is held in October, 2012	• **In process.** The conference is scheduled for Nov 3, 2012. A draft agenda/ day plan have been constructed. The Multipurpose Room on the New York City Campus has been reserved for the event. The Pace University Chapter of Psi Chi will be a supporting sponsor of the conference. We have started recruiting keynote and guest speakers.
Objective 7: Web 2.0 Virtual Interdisciplinary Informatics Institute launches live, November, 2012.	• **Planned (Nov 2012).** With the support of the Pace IT team we do not anticipate any insurmountable hurdles with this effort.

C) Has your project impacted students? If so, how many?

Nine students are involved with the Web 2.0 Institute/Are You Connected Project.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Public Administration

- Sylvia Auguste
- Patrick Moroney

Psychology

- Katheryne Masso

UNDERGRADUATES
Psychology

- Danica Spence
- Camila Bernal
- Sally Capanzano
- Linda Ollivierre
- Samantha Knight
- Chelsie Burchett

Students are directly engaged in building the institute, learning research skills and engaged in research projects. Students and faculty have organized into teams working on the project objectives. Project staff and volunteers have formed the following teams

- Conference Planning/Logistics Team
- IT/Website Development Team
- Content Management Team

We hold bi-weekly project staff meeting in New York City (Godfrey) and in White Plains (Knepper) and monthly full staff meetings. Dr. Knepper and I spend time each week with students on their assigned tasks and research.

Over the summer students will attend monthly seminars on basic research skills necessary to conduct interdisciplinary research.

Web 2.0 Research Training Schedule

May:	Focus Groups and Interviewing – Part 1
	Focus Group and Interviewing -Part 2
June	Qualitative Data Management and Analyses
July	Qualtrics and Internet-based Data Collection and Management
August	Quantitative Data Management and Analyses

Students are also assisting with building initial content for the Institute's website. This includes pilot research projects and reviews of Web 2.0 research that will form the kernel of ideas that they can expand upon or that can be spread to others. We hope that this work will also gives students a product that they can add to their curriculum vitae and present to prospective graduate schools and future employers.

Students are currently engaged in three projects that will provide valuable initial content for the Web 2.0 site.

- A review of Web 2.0 guidelines, ethics and standards for mental health providers (D. Spence)

- Telemedicine: A review of evidence-based and anecdotal practice reports and scholarly publications (C. Bernal & S. Auguste)

- Meta-analysis of participants in reports in *Cyberpsychology and Behavior* from 2010-2012 (S. Capanzano)

- Research on Social Media use in the public sector (P. Moroney & S. Auguste)

- Coordinating the public administration focus group participants (P. Moroney)

- Building the Qualtrics Survey Tool for public administration (S. Auguste)

D) Has your project impacted other faculty members? If so, how many?

There has been some indirect impact on other faculty members. We presented this project at the Faculty Institute on May 17, 2012 as part of a panel "**Interdisciplinary Research at Pace: Crossing Departments, Intersecting Universities, & Pushing Innovation."** Several faculty expressed interest in our project. Further, working with Dr. Beth Klingner in IT has proved useful for both parties in considering the utility of eportfolio vs. a traditional webpage for our Web III.

E) What are your next steps?

The project's original timetable is detailed in our Gantt Chart (see section A). Our immediate next steps are centered on completing the delayed Objectives 2 and 3 - conducting focus group discussions and launching the web-based survey. We anticipate completing Objective 2 by July 1 and data collection for the Objective 3-AYC Survey by September 30.

In addition to the activities outlined in the preceding sections other immediate next steps include

- Finalizing potential advisory board member list and soliciting members.
- Continuing to work with Pace University IT on building the Web 2.0 Institute website. We have set October 1 as our target date for the site's launch.
- Refining and developing content for the site.
- Engaging additional Pace faculty to create or become involved in research under the institute's aegis.
- Although not a direct element of our Thinkfinity grant, we believe targeting submission of our research for presentation and publication across our disciplines is a critical step in promoting Web III.