

5-1-2009

Exploring Web 2.0 Technologies to Internationalize the Teaching of Psychology

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Recommended Citation

Velayo, Richard, "Exploring Web 2.0 Technologies to Internationalize the Teaching of Psychology" (2009). *Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics*. Paper 3.
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**Mid-Project Status Report
(as of May 22, 2009)**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Richard Velayo, Ph.D., Psychology Dept., NYC Campus

PROJECT TITLE: Exploring Web 2.0 Technologies to Internationalize the Teaching of Psychology

THINKFINITY PROGRAM: Cornerstone III: Interdisciplinary Programs

A. Statement of Project Goals

This project aims to explore effective ways in which instructors in psychology through the use Web 2.0 technologies in teaching to help with this “internationalization” initiative. Though the focus of this pilot project is the psychology curriculum, an investigation of the ways in which Internet-based technologies are used to internationalize curriculum in other disciplines will also be explored.

The anticipated outcomes of this study clearly apply to other disciplines and the interdisciplinary nature of this project is reflected in the relevant resources collected that are from various disciplines.

Internationalization of the curriculum involves multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary efforts that many institutions and fields of study now consider as one of their major academic and professional initiatives. Clearly, many empirical and qualitative studies in the field of computer science, business, education, languages, and cross-cultural anthropology have contributed in our understanding of how internet-based education may facilitate a more global perspective of one’s discipline and a better understanding between peoples of various nations. Thus, the long-range objective of this project extends to other disciplines as well (especially the social and behavioral sciences) in terms of strategies in which the Internet may be utilized to enhance collaboration, infuse global content, and promote a more international perspective in the curriculum through an integrated portal.

In addition, given Pace’s initiatives to have its faculty be more tech-savvy by incorporating web-based tools to enhance student engagement and learning especially in web-based environments, this study will provide a model portal that exemplifies how wikis, blogs, social networking websites, videoconferencing, virtual worlds, and other Internet-based technologies may be incorporated in their teaching, share resources that help internationalize the content, and infuse a more global perspective in these courses.

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

The equipment and materials related to this project has just recently been completed and are currently being set up. In addition, the project investigators have and continue to gather several related literature in psychology and from various other disciplines that demonstrate how instructors utilize Web. 2.0 tools as a means to internationalize their courses.

We are now beginning the second step of the project, which is to create a web portal that will house these various resources (e.g., articles, weblinks, contact information of key individuals with expertise and interest in this topic). We are also in the process of incorporating Web 2.0 technologies (e.g., blogs, wikis, a facebook page, webinars, video conferencing) to facilitate interaction among instructors on ways to internationalize their courses, that is, to explore and share ideas and strategies to effectively incorporate international content and collaboration between and among educators, students, and others.

We are also in the process of putting together a clearinghouse of electronic resources in psychology (e.g., syllabi, books, articles, weblinks, contacts) that may be of interest to those who seek to internationalize their courses. We envision that by the beginning of the fall 2009 semester, we will be able to put together a website that will house these resources as well as include Web 2.0 tools within the website to facilitate collaboration between educators, researchers, students, and curriculum managers in psychology who share the common vision of a more internationalized discipline.