



From the Vineyard

ISSUE 46, SEPTEMBER 2019 | JANE MOORE - EDITOR

From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Leadership Community,

As we start another academic year serving students, faculty, and educators around the world, MERLOT continues to “give a gift and not a burden” by continuously improving and expanding our open educational services and collection of free and open educational resources. In a recent [Campus Technology article](#), MERLOT was called the “OER Mothership.” How are we able to sustain this growth and innovation? It is because of your leadership and efforts that MERLOT continues to get better! Without our community, we’d just be another website. We have achieved this role in higher education because of YOU and the entire MERLOT Community! THANK YOU!

Affordable Learning Solutions – the use of OER, library, free, and low-cost resources for course materials has reached critical mass. Last year, the California State University saved over \$50 million for its students through its Affordable Learning Solutions program. MERLOT has been a foundational vehicle for many institution’s Affordable Learning Solutions initiatives, including the HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). MERLOT has created a portal for the 104 HBCUs as well as individual portals for early adopting campuses (www.hbcuals.org). MERLOT’s “sister” program SkillsCommons (www.skillscommons.org) has expanded the collection of OER in workforce development and now has had over 2,000,000 downloads of materials from the SkillsCommons collection. SkillCommons recently won the **2019 Teaching and Learning Impact Award (Campus Technology)** as well.

On a personal note, I’d like to share with you that I have returned to the Cal State University Long Beach campus and will be continuing as the Executive Director of MERLOT within my role as a CSU Long Beach faculty. We have many projects underway and we’ll be continuing to move forward in innovative ways. I look forward to seeing many of you at the OLC-MERLOT INNOVATE Conference in Chicago 2020.

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR INNOVATE PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS SUBMITTED BY SEPT 30, 2019!

Cheers,
Gerry

Contents

From your Wine Steward - Gerry Hanley
Feature Article – Innovate 2020
Feature Article – Peer Reviewers
Extraordinaire
Feature Article – SkillsCommons
MERLOT Technology
Update on MERLOT Community
News
Out and About with MERLOT
Meeting Notices
Moore Musings
MERLOT Statistics

Feature Article – Innovate 2020



Innovate 2020 will take place at the Sheraton Grand Chicago. The CFP is open until September 30th.

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2020/innovate/cfp/>

Many MERLOT members are participating in the planning of the conference, which had a record attendance last year. Jane Moore, Editor of Teacher Education is Program Advisor for MERLOT and Track Chair for Open Education; Sherri Restauri, Editor of Professional Coaching and on the Psychology Editorial Board has multiple roles on the Steering Committee including Co-Chair for IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Advocacy, and Access) as well as working on the Research Master Class and doing Data Analysis; Angela Gunder, as past Conference Chair serves on the Steering Committee and is working with the Research Master Class; Catherine Honig and Jean Mandernach, Editor and member of the Psychology Board, respectively, are co-chairs of the Features/Workshops Sessions; Moustapha Diack, MAN Africa, is co-chairing the HBCU Summit.

The Community College Summit at OLC Innovate will engage community college educators from across the nation in meaningful and reflective discussions about using online education to meeting the diverse educational needs of underserved students.

The HBCU Summit will involve historically black colleges again this year in developing ways to create affordable learning solutions for faculty and students alike.

There are multiple types of presentations at the conference.

You can access descriptions of these sessions at:

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2020/innovate/cfp/session-types-details/>

Note that the emphasis again this year is engaging attendees to participate in the sessions.

Deadlines for the conference include:

- Notification of acceptance by December 4, 2019
- Deadline for presenters to accept is December 18, 2019
- Deadline for presenters to register is February 5, 2020
- Final date for presenters to edit abstracts is February 5, 2020
- Final presentation upload date is March 20, 2020



Proposal Reviewers for Innovate 2020

Thanks to all of you who signed up to review proposals for Innovate. The reviewing period is October 3-18.

MERLOT has contributed reviewers to the conference since its inception. OLC appreciates your commitment to the conference, as do we at MERLOT.

Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2020 Program

MERLOT created the Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire award to honor the hard work and generous donation of our members' time, energy and enthusiasm that they direct towards the growth and development of MERLOT. We rely heavily on our Peer Reviewers to help expand the MERLOT collection and perform the Peer Review process. Again this year MERLOT reviewers have the opportunity to earn free registration (either in-person or virtual) at the Innovate Conference at the Sheraton - Chicago, March 31-April 3, 2020. Awardees also receive certificates of merit and letters of appreciation sent to their deans and/or department chairs. In order to participate, you must have completed MERLOT GRAPE (Getting Reviewers Accustomed to the Process of Evaluation) Camp, complete 15 reviews that have been accepted by your editor and submit a minimum of five materials to the collection between March 16, 2019 and March 15, 2020. You must register to formally intend to complete the requirements. The first 50 applicants to complete their reviews and submissions will be awarded registration. All who complete the requirements will receive the certificates and letters of appreciation. Please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/7crPZe5x6bhQWvr89> Jane will contact your editor to make sure that you are assigned enough reviews to complete the process. Beginning in October, you will receive a monthly update on your reviews completed.

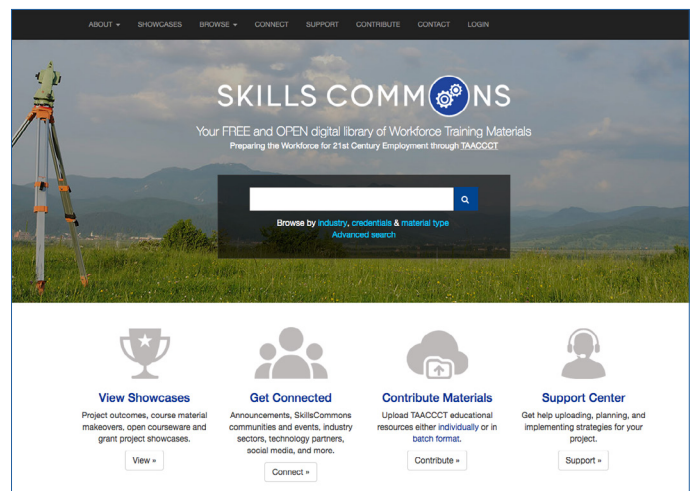
SkillsCommons

Congratulations to SkillsCommons on their 2 millionth download!

[SkillsCommons](#) was named a recipient of the [Campus Technology Impact Award for Teaching and Learning](#). Congratulations to the SkillsCommons leadership team: Gerry Hanley, Rick Lumadue, Maria Fieth and Marla Gunasegaram. Campus Technology, launched in 2004 is an online site designed to provide coverage of "technologies and implementations influencing colleges and universities across the nation" (<http://campustechnology.com/pages/about.aspx>).

The [SkillsCommons](#) site has recently been updated. Be sure to check out the [video](#) of Gerry Hanley discussing how affordable learning solutions can impede the rising costs of course materials.

One of the newest and most exciting aspect of the SkillsCommons site is the [Healthcare Augmented Reality section](#). Faculty and students can choose between [Serious Games](#) (yes, this is an actual term for games designed specifically for learning), [Clinical Case Studies](#), and [Healthcare Simulations](#). These resources are free and are designed for in-class and independent work in the healthcare education field.





MERLOT Technology

MERLOT Content Builder

You've been hearing about the new MERLOT Content Builder for months and we hope that many of you have been using the beta version. We are in our final stages of testing and getting ready to release the much anticipated new version! Content Builder was originally built and supported by the Carnegie Foundation and about 10 years ago, MERLOT adopted and integrated it. Over time the functionality was refined but the latest release will have a completely new user interface for an even easier user experience. You will see a new tool that is more intuitive, especially allowing users to collaborate with other MERLOT members and colleagues. More about collaborating in the next Vineyard. Please keep an eye out for our release announcement later this month!

For current MERLOT Content Builder users, any pages and sites previously created will appear on the new site home page under the section heading, My Legacy Content Builder Sites. Nothing will be lost. To view and edit legacy pages in the new Content Builder, you will just have to import them and modify the formatting as needed. For assistance in getting started, check out the Content Builder User's Guide at <http://bit.ly/content-builder-help>.

Social Networking and MERLOT

We have many ways for you to stay connected with MERLOT and all the wonderful things happening with the website and initiatives. Please share these sites with your colleagues. Note in the chart the increased interest in MERLOT in part due to social media initiatives.

MERLOT Voices <http://voices.merlot.org/>



Update on MERLOT Community

Fall GRAPE Camp Sessions

To become a Peer Reviewer for MERLOT, individuals should be an instructor in an institution of higher education and have:

- Expertise in the scholarship of their field
- Excellence in teaching, with a few exceptions
- Experience in using technology in teaching and learning, and
- Connections to professional organizations in their discipline.

MERLOT has developed an orientation for Peer Reviewers to ensure that they become familiar with MERLOT processes and policies on Peer Review. MERLOT Management conducts GRAPE Camp (Getting Reviewers Accustomed to the Process of Evaluation) to assist Peer Reviewers on a regular basis. GRAPE Camp consists of a series of three one-hour workshops online, one per week. In these webinars, participants will:

- Develop an understanding of MERLOT
- Learn how MERLOT evaluates Learning Materials
- Conduct a group review
- Complete an Individual Review
- Learn how to use the Workspace tool, and
- Introduce participants to the Editorial Board of their disciplines.

The webinar includes people from a variety of disciplines and is archived so participants can review the material as needed. For information about GRAPE Camp, contact Cathy Swift (cswift@calstate.edu).

2019 GRAPE Camp Orientations are scheduled for Fall in:

- November - Wednesdays (6, 13, 20) at 5 PM Eastern/ 2 PM Pacific
- December – Thursdays (5, 12, 19) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific

To register for any one of these sessions or to sign up for asynchronous sessions, please complete the short form [questionnaire](#). If these times don't work for you, you can also participate asynchronously by completing the questionnaire above and indicating that you want to do it asynchronously. In addition, you can sign up for a Self-Study, which you do at your

own speed. The Self-Study was created using MERLOT's Content Builder.

You can also participate in the discussions about GRAPE Camp in [MERLOT Voices](#).

Comments from GRAPE Camp Participants:

"I've been reviewing papers for years, but this is the first time I've actually been taught how to do it properly. Grape Camp will improve the quality of my work as an author and as a reviewer."

"It helped me a lot to learn how to make my lesson and materials better by reviewing others. I could find my own problems by watching peer's lessons."

"I didn't realize that peer reviewers normally receive awards. This definitely interested me."

"It is apparent that MERLOT is a fine organization that appreciates its reviewers and operates as a team."

"This was a really enjoyable training experience. I'm quite excited at the prospect of applying the skills I learned toward (potentially - hopefully) improving the OER experience for educators in search of materials."

"I realized that we can learn a lot by communicating with others who are in the same field with you and MERLOT just provides us this great platform to upgrade ourselves."

"Overall, this was very well done. I'm glad I participated."

"Cathy is prompt in responding to me (once time zones have been factored in), and has been a useful contact point throughout."

"Well-designed orientation."

"It was very helpful for me to do this asynchronously due to changing computer systems in the middle of the training! I am pleased to be part of your reviewer group."

"Respectful of participant's time by keeping sessions valuable and on-time."

"I think it's a great idea and appreciate the time of the facilitator."

"Grape Camp was a good learning experience. The materials were organized and clear."

"The instructor is knowledgeable, enthusiastic and responsive. Thank you."

"It was an enjoyable and comfortable 'classroom' environment."

"I think Grape camp is a good way to learn about doing reviews. The format is flexible, as in my case I missed a session and could watch the archived presentation"

"I thought the amount of time was just right and the instructor was available for questions between instructional sessions."



Congratulations to the following Grape Camp Graduates:

May 2019	Pankaj Mehrotra	Biology	Bard Early College
May 2019	Alexander Lewko	World Languages	American University - Cairo
May 2019	Elisa White	Instructional Technology	NEO A&M College
May 2019	Kimberly S. Grotewold	Library	Texas A&M
July 2019	Laurie Daily	Teacher Ed	Augustana University
August 2019	Rebecca Bogie	Business	Louisiana State University Shreveport
August 2019	Patience Ebuwei	Health Sciences	Coppin State University
August 2019	Amir Galal	Biology	Universidade de Sao Paolo

News

Editorial Board News

We are looking for those interested in becoming editors in Agriculture, Chemistry, and Communication Sciences and Disorders. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone, please contact Jane Moore (jmoore@calstate.edu). Thanks!

Congratulations!

Heidi Upton, Music Editorial Board, published an article in *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, "Integrating Experience through the Work of William Newell and Maxine Greene."

Jeanette Landin, Business Editorial Board was promoted to Associate Professor at Landmark College. She presented a paper, "Stressed-Out, Self-Isolated, and Hyper-Connected: Teaching Today's Learners," at the International Academic Conference on Global Education, Teaching in Budapest, Hungary. This conference is sponsored by the Czech Technical University in Prague.

Lesley Farmer, Editor of ICT Literacy was awarded the CSU Long Beach President's Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement and the award for Outstanding Faculty Service from the CSU Long Beach College of Education. Lesley presented on "Integrating OERs into Courseware" for the Special Library Association in Cleveland and had two presentations at the National Association of Media Literacy Education conference in Washington DC. She is on the steering committee for developing the California State Department of Education's website on Media Literacy Resources: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/ml/>.

Rizalia Klausmeyer, former Chemistry Editor has been promoted to the Director of Undergraduate Research within the College of Arts and Sciences at Baylor.

Vinod Kanvaria, reviewer in Faculty Development has been promoted to Level 12 Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi. He coauthored *Cyberbullying in Scholls: An Exploration* published this year.

Kathryn Murphy-Judy, reviewer in World Languages announced a publication from the Virginia Commonwealth University team in *World Languages*: "Our manuscript is entitled "Learning in the open: integrating language and culture through student curation, virtual exchange, and OER" (Pp 65-82). It is about our e-textbook OER project that students drive through their curations." <https://research-publishing.net/publication/978-2-490057-51-1.pdf>

Mike Pouraryan, Business Board, is on the Capistrano Unified School District's Facilities and Finance Advisory Committee. He recently completed a tour of the latest school in the district, Esencia, which he described as "a state-of-the-art facility presenting a vision of what is truly possible."

Leila Halawi, Information Technology Board was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. She moved from the College of Business to the College of Aeronautics where she is Program Chair of Master of Aviation Sustainability and Associated Program Chair for the Master of Entrepreneurship in Technology at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards

Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

May - Susan Moncada, Business

June - Rebecca Neel, Library and Information Services

July - Stephanie Medley-Rath, Sociology

August -Cris Guenter, Teacher Education

Thanks to all for the work they do for MERLOT. Each month a name is drawn from those who have contributed reviews to MERLOT during that month. The winner receives a \$50 electronic gift card to the store of their choice. The more reviews you do, the better chance you have to win.

Meet the Editor – Edmundo Tovar, Information Technology



Edmundo Tovar received the computer engineering degree and Ph.D. degree in Informatics from the Madrid Technical University (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, UPM), Madrid, Spain, in 1986 and 1994, respectively. He is currently (2001-) with

the UPM as a Professor of Information Technology in Enterprise with the Languages and Information Systems Department. He is a Certified Software Development Professional (CSDP) (2005 -) and Professional Software Engineering Master Certification (2015-) of the IEEE Computer Society. He has been a member at large of the IEEE Education Society Board of Governors (2005–2013), Vice President of Educational Activities and Awards (2013–2018), and President Elect (2019-2020) and President (2021-2022).

Edmundo has become aware for more than 10 years of the impact of open education to address current and needs education needs occupying several positions. He has served as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Open Education Consortium (2009–2013), Executive Director of the OCW Office of the UPM (2008–2012), and Executive Director of the Open Education Office at UPM (2013-2016). He leads an Innovation Group in technologies applied to Open Education, currently coordinating an European Consortium of institutions under the EntreCom4ALL 2017-1-ES01-KA202-038383 project, adapting the European EntreComp framework to different target groups as women and youth entrepreneurs <http://entrecom4all.eu>. He is committed to the use of OER repositories, and in particular as Editor of the Information Technology / Information Systems Editorial Board of MERLOT, he promotes a living community sharing and enriching high quality OER as much as the development of open educational practices.

Meet the Board Member – Leila Halawi

Dr. Leila Halawi is a tenured associate professor with the College of



Aeronautics, department of Graduate Studies, Worldwide Campus. Dr. Halawi served as the MMIS Program Chair, MIS Discipline Chair, Chair of the Research Committee for the Senate and the Director of Research for the College of Business. She developed the MMIS curriculum

in addition to the content of most of the courses within the program. She also started Alliances with SAS®, Tableau and Microsoft. The Partnership with SAS resulted in a joint certificate for the Business Intelligence and

Analytics specialization. She holds a Certification by Sloan C Consortium in Online Teaching, and a certificate from Quality Matters on Applying the QM Rubrics, (APPQMR).

She is an advisory board member and a reviewer for the Enterprise Architecture Body of Knowledge (EABOK), Mitre Corporation. She is a Reviewer for the Journal of Computer Information Systems (JCIS) and the International Association for computer information systems (IACIS) . She is also a program committee member and reviewer for the European Conference on Social Media, (ECSM), the European Conference on Knowledge Management (ECKM) and the International Conference on Intellectual Capital and Knowledge Management (ICIKM), the Federated Conference on computer science and information systems (FEDCSIS). She is also part of the IT editorial board of the multimedia educational resource for learning and online teaching (MERLOT).

She co-authored this book: *Applying Predictive Analytics Finding Value in Data* Published by Springer, 2019. Her research has been published in the Journal of Computer Information Systems (JCIS), the Learning Organization Journal, the Journal of Business Education, the Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management (EJKM), the Academy of Information and Management Sciences Journal (AIMSJ), Journal of International Technology and Information Management, Journal of Education for Business, Academy of Healthcare Management Journal (AHCMJ) among others. She is frequently invited to present her research at national and international conferences.

Her current research interests include knowledge management, Business Intelligence, information systems success and strategy, and ethical impacts of information technology, promoting innovation, curriculum development and design, enterprise architecture and systems, big data and predictive analytics. Her current research focus on develop a curriculum (DACUM), a semi-structured curriculum design concept that uses subject matter experts who understand industry needs as the basis of curriculum design. The purpose of this research is to strengthen the research effort focused on bridging the gap between industry needs for an IT/IS/MIS workforce and university curricula. The ultimate goal is to begin the discussion on the importance of creating an industry-ready workforce by designing an industry-relevant IT/IS/MIS curriculum and encouraging the flow of information between industry and academia so academia can best serve its students and prepare them for industry.

Dr. Halawi lives in Clearwater, Florida and enjoys traveling, swimming, publishing, and attending national and international conferences.

Out and About with MERLOT

Cris Guenter, Professor Emerita and MERLOT Teacher Education Editorial Board member, is serving as a CSU, Chico member of the North State Arts Education Consortium (NSAEC) launched by Butte County in California. NSAEC received a 2.8 million dollar grant from the California Department of Education for student support and academic enrichment in 2019. NSAEC is focusing on funding arts infrastructure and teacher professional development on behalf of K-12 schools in over 60 districts and county offices of education in Northern California. For teachers participating in the consortium, the grant provides professional development to build their capacity to provide high quality arts education for their students. For teachers in rural areas, participation in the project enables vital connections to other educators and arts experts to support the work. For students benefiting from the grant, increased exposure to arts education has the power to improve academic success, preparation for college and career, and civic engagement, especially for those in impoverished and rural communities. In a region ravaged by devastating wildfires this past year, the grant funding is providing a huge boost both monetarily and emotionally to all involved.



Gerry Hanley, MERLOT Executive Director, was the keynote speaker for the M.O.S.T. (Maryland Out of School Time) 2019 conference. You can find his keynote [here](#).

Irene Knokh, Editor of Instructional Technology has been cited for her 22 presentations at the Enriching Scholarship sessions at the University of Michigan since 2008. She has also mentored student instructional designers over the past several years.

Sherri Restauri is serving as an invited speaker at OLC Collaborate-SC <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2019/collaborate-southcarolina/>.

Meeting Notices



Online Learning Consortium Collaborate

Join us October 10, 2019 OLC Collaborate - South Carolina Hosted by Anderson University. OLC is heading to South Carolina to meet with online learning professionals, educators, and administrators to address the opportunities and challenges we all face regarding digital accessibility and higher education today. onlinelearningconsortium.org



Online Learning Consortium ACCELERATE 2019

Join your fellow MERLOTians at the OLC Accelerate Conference in Orlando, Florida, November 19-22, 2019. You can register for the conference at: <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2019/accelerate/register/>. Both onsite and virtual registrations are available. MERLOT's own Sherri Restauri, Editor of Professional Coaching and member of the Psychology editorial board is Conference Co-Chair for the conference!



Quality Matters Annual Conference

Join the QM community this October in Grapevine, Texas, to explore how institutions across the globe are Committing to Excellence for Learners. Discover what works and what doesn't, including how institutions are tracking their initiatives, sustaining their QA efforts, using QM course reviews and professional development, and promoting engagement for learners, faculty and other stakeholders. Get the fresh ideas, best practices, and data-driven policies you need to move the needle on your own efforts to create high-quality, technology-enhanced learning. This is your opportunity to learn from — and exchange ideas with — the community that believes quality matters.

[Register Now](#)

The OLC/MERLOT sponsored conference will take place at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, March 31-April 3. You can make your reservations and get further information here: <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2020/innovate/>. It's not too early to think about your travel plans!



The OLC/MERLOT sponsored conference will take place at the Sheraton Grand Chicago, March 31-April 3. You can make your reservations and get further information here: <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2020/innovate/>. It's not too early to think about your travel plans!

Moore Musings

*Dear Jane,
How does someone get to be on an editorial board
for MERLOT?*

– Clueless

Dear Clueless,
Editorial boards are composed of MERLOT reviewers who commit to a minimum of 5 reviews per year. They have been reviewing for at least a year and have demonstrated a willingness to “do more.” Usually new editorial board members have been Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire, completing a minimum of 15 reviews in a calendar year and adding 5 new materials to MERLOT. If you are interested in being a board member, you can contact your editor, or contact me at jmoore@calstate.edu

– Jane

MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of August 31, 2019

85,502	# items in Collection
5,202	# of materials w/a Peer Review
15,989	# of materials w/an Editor’s Review
6,314	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,015	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
164,294	# of registered users

Usage Statistics for 2019, to date

1,059,501	Total # of visits
1.82	Avg. # pages/visit
2.04	Avg. length of visit

Are you interested in writing for From the Vineyard, or adding news and updates? From the Vineyard is published September, January, and May. Getting your information in print is easy. Send your submission to [Jane Moore](#). Unfortunately we can’t publish all articles/stories in each issue; if you don’t see your story in the issue, we promise to try to get it into the next one!

