



From the Vineyard

 MERLOT

ISSUE 50, JANUARY 2021 | JANE MOORE - EDITOR

From Your Wine Steward - Serving "What's New"

Dear MERLOT Community,

We at MERLOT hope you and your families have been able to stay healthy during the COVID pandemic. We also hope that you as educators have had some rest over the holidays as we start 2021 still in the grip of the pandemic. With the launch of the new year, we wish you all the very best in the year ahead.

Help Teaching and Learning Online: The COVID pandemic has affected the lives of billions of people and the education of so many people has been transformed. People of all ages and all walks of life are now learning online because there are no other options. MERLOT and SkillsCommons have designed an OER portal for some free and open educational resources that you can immediately use to support online learning for both teachers and learners: ["Preparing to Teach and Learn Online"](#). The website was built in MERLOT Content Builder so MERLOT members can rebrand and customize a copy of the website for their institution or community. We've had over [30 derivative MERLOT portals created](#) for institutions and organizations. Would you like your own website? Contact us at support@skillscommons.edu.

EXPLORE New Partnerships to Support Affordable Learning: Partnerships have been essential to provide educators and learners more complete solutions to their teaching learning challenges. The 11 year partnership with the Online Learning Consortium has resulted in new collaborative projects, including a [virtual IDEATE conference on teaching STEM Labs online](#). You can explore the resources and videos as well as the [MERLOT-SkillsCommons Virtual Labs portal](#). We have also contributed to [OLC's IDEATE virtual conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) in Digital Learning Environments.

We are partnering with the [ASEAN University Network-TEPL](#), [China's XJTU University' Learning Mall](#), the [Commonwealth of Learning's Open Doors program](#), and the [National Skills Development Corporation of India](#) to provide open educational services and resources to people around the world. Our new collaboration with [Pandemic Professors](#) includes providing the organization a [customized MERLOT-SkillsCommons portal that their tutors and students](#) can use to support programs for low-income students impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Our group of partners are helping us provide faculty and students powerful platform for customizing and delivering OER. Our new partnership with [ecoText](#) and our long-standing partnership with [SoftChalk](#) have helped us provide this service. You can read more about partnerships in the subsequent sections of the Vineyard Newsletter.

JOIN US at the 2021 INNOVATE Conference: Don't forget our annual collaborative conference planned and provided by the [Online Learning Consortium and MERLOT: INNOVATE 2021](#) will be virtual from March 15 to March 22, 2021. Please share your expertise, research, and outcomes of online educational strategies for transforming higher education at INNOVATE as higher education is being transformed by the COVID pandemic. We will continue building the community and collection support open educational practices (<https://oep.merlot.org>) with ePortfolios and stories of innovative and successful teaching and learning practices using technology and OER.

In 2021, one of our strategic goals is to continue developing partnerships with institutions, organizations, professional societies, and industries because together we can do better developing effective and efficient strategies to give the gifts of education while reducing the burdens of education. If you would like to join with us in these open educational endeavors, please contact me Gerry.hanley@csulb.edu.

Once again, I hope you stay healthy, take care, and share with those who have needs.

Cheers,
Gerry Hanley
Executive Director, MERLOT & SkillsCommons

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From Your Wine Steward: Serving What's New

- MERLOT Statistics

New to MERLOT? Did you know you can...

- Search more than MERLOT with one click
- Create your own personal e-collection

Join the MERLOT Community Activities

- INNOVATE 2021 - Virtual Conference
 - MERLOT at INNOVATE 2021
- Be a Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire
 - AL\$ Summit for HBCUs 2021
 - Participate in OER Research

Connect with MERLOT Partners: Creating, Sharing, Adopting OER

MERLOT & SkillsCommonsTechnology

Recognition of MERLOT Members

- Editorial Board News
- Out and About with MERLOT

Moore Musings

MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of December 31, 2020

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 93,165 | # items in Collection |
| 5,552 | # of materials w/a Peer Review |
| 13,681 | # of materials w/an Editor's Review |
| 12,384 | # of materials w/a Comment/Discussion |
| 26,319 | # of bookmark collections |
| 180,165 | # of registered users |

Usage Statistics for 2020

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1,055,996 | Total # of visits in 2020 |
| 3.19 | Avg. # pages/visit |
| 2:43 | 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!

New to MERLOT? Did you know you can....

Simultaneously search over 75 open libraries for free and open educational resources?

- Just click on the green "Other Libraries" tab after you do a MERLOT search and explore thousands of additional teaching and learning materials.

Simultaneously search the WWW with a special Google search heuristics for identifying educationally related website?

- Just click on the blue "The Web" tab after you do a MERLOT search and explore thousands of additional teaching and learning materials.

Create your own virtual "bookshelf" of materials in the MERLOT library that can share with others?

- Become a [MERLOT registered member](#) - it's FREE
- Watch this [YouTube video](#) that shows you how.

JOIN MERLOT's Community's Activities

INNOVATE 2021 Virtual Conference March 15-19, 2021



For the past 12 years, MERLOT has partnered with the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) to deliver the INNOVATE conference.

You can register for Innovate 2021 at <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2021/innovate/register/>

What's New with INNOVATE 2021? We will conduct a series of engaging sessions aimed at fostering organic interactions and collaborative cross-disciplinary problem-solving. Together we will build new foundations for stronger, better higher education environments. And because innovation scales best when ideas are shared, our work sessions will explore digital technologies and adapted teaching behaviors aimed at informing policy, inspiring leadership, and evolving practice at all levels impacting institutions, universities, and colleges.

The OLC Innovate 2021 program offers an online conference experience that includes even more than the previous version of the program:

- Additionally, the program includes multiple targeted summits - HBCU, AL5, Research, AnnotatED, K-12, International, Community College and the Leadership Network.
- Access to on-demand recordings of all sessions for 1-year post-conference (a great resource to review at your leisure).
- 90-minute workshops*
- Social and networking activities including happy hours, game socials, yoga, fitness sessions, and more fun, engaging activities.
- MERLOT and OLC Members get special pricing.

Please join us for this reimagined event, and celebrate our collective resilience and dedication to forging connections without boundaries.

*Some pre-conference workshops are an additional charge.

MERLOT members presenting at Innovate 2021

| Day | Time | Presenter | Title |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|
| March 15 | 5:45-6:30 pm Central | Lesley Farmer (Editor of ICT Literacy) | Preparing Pre-Service Teachers for Computational Thinking |
| March 16 | 11:30-12:15 pm Central | Sherri Restauri, Catherine Honig, Julie Evey, B. Jean Mandernach (Psychology Editorial Board) | Supporting the Adoption of Open Educational Access Materials through MERLOT |
| March 16 | 2:00-2:45 pm Central | Loretta Driskel (Teacher Education Editorial Board) | Just Sit Right Back and You'll Hear a Tale: Development of an Interactive Baseline Professional Development Initiative |
| March 16 | 2:00-2:45 pm Central | Lesley Farmer (Editor of ICT Literacy) | Student Generated OERs |
| March 16 | 3:15-4:00 pm Central | Gerry Hanley (MERLOT/Skills Commons) | Capturing Open Educational Practices with E Portfolios |
| March 17 | 3:15-4:00 pm Central | Gerry Hanley (MERLOT/Skills Commons) | The Free College Program at Eastern Gateway Community College: Partnership and OER at Work |
| March 17 | 5:45-6:00 pm Central | Rick Lumadue and Maria Fieth (MERLOT/Skills Commons) | COVID-19 Response: Free Tools for Successful Teaching and Learning from MERLOT and Skills Commons |

MERLOT members presenting at Innovate 2021 (continued)

Discovery Sessions (all asynchronous and located in VoiceThread)

| Presenter | Title |
|--|--|
| Maggie Broderick (reviewer in Teacher Education) | Challenges and Opportunities for Online Doctoral Students during COVID-19: Perspectives of Dissertation Chairs |
| Jane Moore (MERLOT) | Professional Development Reimagined: Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer |
| B. Jean Mandernach (Psychology Editorial Board) | Student Perception of Instructor Feedback |
| Lesley Farmer (Editor of ICT Literacy) | Virtual Field Experiences: What Works? |
| Cris Guenter, Esperanza Zenon, Loretta Driskel, Angela Gunder, Elaine Lawrence, Jane Moore (Teacher Education Editorial Board) | What's in Your Hip Pocket? Ideas for Lessons When You Need Them |

Explore the full schedule at https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2021/innovate/program/all_sessions/

Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2021 Program at INNOVATE

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 create peer reviews.

MERLOT peer reviewers have the opportunity to earn free registration for the 2021 Innovate conference (all virtual). Awardees also receive certificates of merit and be named at the awards ceremony. In order to participate, reviewers 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 5 materials to the collection between March 16, 2020 and March 1, 2021.

By the end of December, three editors have achieved PRE status: Nancyruth Leibold, Health Sciences; Lesley Farmer, ICT Literacy; and Larry Green, Mathematics and Statistics.

Please contact Jane Moore (jmoore@calstate.edu) if you are interested in participating. Send her your name, email address, snail mail address, your institution, and your editorial board by January 31. She will contact your editor to make sure that you are assigned enough reviews to complete the process.

NEW Hewlett Foundation Grant: Scaling Affordable Learning at HBCUs with MERLOT and Skills Commons

The [MERLOT](#) and [SkillsCommons](#) team is excited to announce that we have recently partnered with a core group of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to increase access and application of affordable learning solutions! Generously funded under The Hewlett Foundation, the project's intention to **create support systems and infrastructure for Open Educational Resources thus reducing educational costs**. Under the leadership of Tennessee State University's Dr. Robbie Melton and her extraordinary team and guided by the expertise of the SkillsCommons and MERLOT team, HBCUs and selected affiliates will build OER hubs and design open content for use, reuse, and revision by the larger population. Stay updated of this exciting new project by following @SkillsCommons and @MERLOT.org on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

A pre-conference workshop on adopting and adapting the Affordable Learning Solutions program by HBCUs will be conducted at INNOVATE 2021 Friday March 12, 2021.

Participate in Research: Remixing OER

Remix, defined as the objects, processes and mindsets developed through the act of combining or manipulating digital materials to create something new (Wiley, n.d.; Lessig, 2004; Knobel & Lankshear, 2008; Hilton et al., 2010), serves as a prominent practice for open educators, particularly those engaged in networked communities like MERLOT. Currently, though, there is a need for a better understanding of how open educational practices (OEP) such as remix are used to promote open pedagogy, and how in turn, issues of power and privilege can limit openness regardless of the intentions of open educators engaging in OEP.

Angela Gunder, a member of the MERLOT Teacher Education Editorial Board and the Chief Academic Officer of the Online Learning Consortium, is conducting a research study as part of her dissertation for her Ph.D. from The University of Arizona. Angela shares, "As the global conversation around open education turns to situating openness as a fundamental measure to support sustained access to education for all learners, this study will help communities in the process of determining how organizations, institutions, and countries will embed open educational practices such as remix into the framework of their teaching and learning practices." "Inclusiveness requires openness to remixing social, cultural, economic, historical, and other contextualizations to the content being taught," says Gerry Hanley, Executive Director of MERLOT and SkillsCommons. "If we are to become more inclusive in education for all, understanding how to facilitate remixing as an open educational practice is critical."

Angela is looking for participants for her study and is hopeful that the members of the MERLOT community will be willing to take a little time (20-30 minutes) to complete her survey on the practices and perspectives of educators on the remix of open educational resources (OER). She is particularly looking for educators to contribute who are not in the U.S. or Canada, though all are welcome to do the survey.

For more information about the research study, go to: <http://bit.ly/oestudy>

To access the survey, go to: https://u.arizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25Mt1h5gbS5FrLv

And if you have any questions about the study and how to participate, you can reach out to Angela by email at agunder@email.arizona.edu.

References

- Hilton, J., III, Wiley, D., Stein, J., & Johnson, A. (2010). The four "R"s of openness and ALMS analysis: frameworks for open educational resources. *Open Learning: The Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning*, 25(1), 37-44.
- Knobel, M., & Lankshear, C. (2008). Remix: The Art and Craft of Endless Hybridization. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy: A Journal from the International Reading Association*, 52(1), 22-33.
- Lessig, L. (2004). Free (ing) culture for remix. *Utah Law Review*, 961.
- Wiley, D. (n.d.). Defining the "Open" in Open Content and Open Educational Resources. Open Content. Retrieved April 5, 2020, from <http://opencontent.org/definition/>

CONNECT WITH MERLOT PARTNERS: Expanding and Improving Impact

Opening education to all requires many people, organizations, companies, and technologies working together to address the needs of educators, learners, and the diverse community of support staff. MERLOT and SkillsCommons are collaborating with our partners to fulfill our mission. Here's an overview of some of our partnerships.



ecoText is an innovative platform for reusing and revising OER. ecoText creates an ePub file format which enables a wealth of editing functions for you to create a derivative work that captures your voice and those of your students.



SoftChalk has been a MERLOT partner for many years for creating interactive learning experience with the easy to use SoftChalk software. Our next collaboration will be focused on developing workforce development learning materials by combining SkillsCommons' OER and SoftChalk's tools. Free webinars to help faculty learn about these open educational practices are planned.



O'Donnell Learn brings over 300 learning design professionals and 1,000+ subject matter experts committed to learner-centric design, best-practice sharing and deep partnership with our customers. MERLOT and SkillsCommons are used by O'Donnell Learn to support institutions implementing an Affordable Learning Solutions program. Explore their LX Design Center services that includes a wealth of free resources as well as O'Donnell's expertise.



AUN-TEPL (ASEAN University Network-Technology Enhanced Personalized Learning) is a collaborative of higher education institutions in Southeast Asian countries and MERLOT-SkillsCommons is their adopted open educational services partner to support their goals of building a sharable collection of OER.



XJTLU University' Learning Mall in China is partnering with MERLOT-SkillsCommons. "The XJTLU Learning Mall will provide premier resources for lifelong learners, including skills for the industry leaders of tomorrow as they prepare to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with its emphasis on artificial intelligence and robotics," explains Dr. Bill Boland, Director of the XJTLU Learning Mall.



National Skills Development Corporation of India will be a major distribution partner of SkillsCommons' workforce development resources. MERLOT-SkillsCommons has also provided an OER portal to support NSDC's initiative for employment equity for women using MERLOT Content Builder.



Commonwealth of Learning's OpenDoor Program provides webinars, OER, and support services to learners in developing countries. UNESCO estimates that 90% of the world's student population is unable to attend classes. By providing free online educational resources, students have a greater chance to pursue educational opportunities.

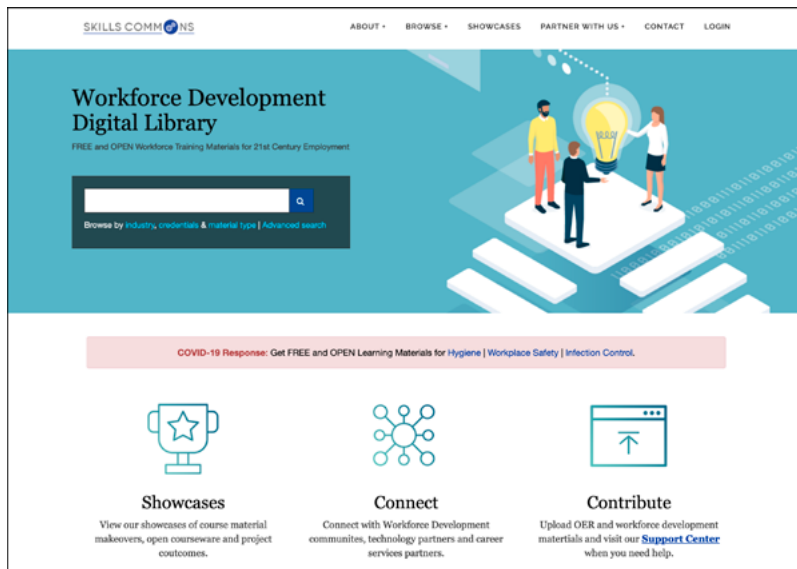


Pandemic Professors provides free online one-on-one tutoring. A key goal is to ensure students feel at home in education so they can reach their full potential within it. MERLOT-SkillsCommons is providing a [customized OER portal](#) that the tutors can use to support programs for low-income students impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Would you like to participate in one of these partnership activities? Let us know at webmaster@merlot.org or support@skillscommons.org

MERLOT and SkillsCommons Technology

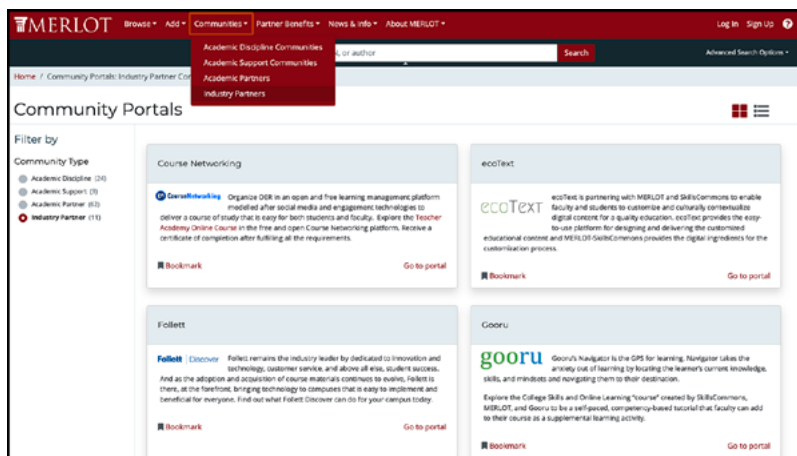
SkillsCommons.org Gets a New Look!



SkillsCommons, the **world's largest open repository of free and open workforce training and educational materials**, just got a mini makeover! Our webmasters have been busy creating a fresh, new look perfectly aligned with our next steps in workforce development initiatives. Developed under a nearly \$2 billion federal initiative, SkillsCommons is home to expertly created and vetted workforce training and educational materials. To date, these sought-after materials have been **downloaded** for use over **Three Million times!** SkillsCommons hosts materials for advanced manufacturing, healthcare, informational technology, construction trades, and others. Employers, community colleges, universities, and secondary teachers and students are benefitting from these subject matter expert-created materials designed to increase affordability and access to education for all.

Stop by today to see our new look today at www.SkillsCommons.org, or follow us on social media @ SkillsCommons and @MERLOT.org on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to get the latest updates in workforce development in the 21st Century!

MERLOT Community Portals: Explore Academic and Industry Partners



MERLOT collaborates with many academic, government, and industry organizations to deliver open education services to people around the world. We often create customized portals that showcase MERLOT resources and services to our partner's communities and we also showcase our partners' services to the MERLOT communities.

To complement the over 50 different, customized MERLOT academic partner portals, MERLOT now has the initial showcase of our industry partner portals for you to explore at <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/communities.htm>

Adobe no Longer Supporting Flash Content



Members may be aware that a number of resources linked in MERLOT were created using Adobe Flash technology. These resources require the use of the Flash Player browser plug-in to work. Earlier this month Adobe dropped support for Flash Player and they recommend that users uninstall the browser plugin for security reasons.

The MERLOT team is working to identify all of the effected resources linked in the repository. Once a resource is identified as being Flash-based, we will attempt to find a replacement resource and if a replacement exists, we will update the MERLOT record with the new link. However, in some cases where no replacement can be found, the record will be deleted.

If you encounter a MERLOT resource that is no longer available or functional, for any reason, you can help us by clicking the “Report Broken Link” option in the record. This will bring it to our attention, and we will do our best to fix the link or find a replacement.

The screenshot shows the MERLOT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MERLOT logo and various menu items like 'Browse', 'Add', 'Communities', etc. Below that is a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Material Detail' and features the resource 'DNA from the Beginning'. The resource description includes a thumbnail image and text explaining it as an animated tutorial on DNA. To the right of the main content is a 'Quality' sidebar showing metrics like 'Peer Review ★★★★★', 'User Rating ★★★★★', and 'Comments (64)'. At the bottom of the page, there are several interactive buttons: 'Go to Material', 'Bookmark / Add to Course ePortfolio', 'Create a Learning Exercise', 'Add Accessibility Information', 'Rate' (with five stars), 'Share' (with social media icons), and 'Add a Comment'. A yellow arrow points to the 'Report Broken Link' button, which is circled in red. Below it is a 'Report as inappropriate' button.

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. We are happy to see increased interest in MERLOT due in part to social media initiatives.



MERLOT has a [Facebook page](#) and we'd love for you to Like us! You can also follow us on [Twitter](#). MERLOT also has a [LinkedIn group](#). We invite you to join us and network with other MERLOT Users.

Update on MERLOT Community

Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer and GRAPE Camp Information

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
- Introduce participants to the editorial board in their discipline.

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](#).

You can attend GRAPE Camp Orientation three ways:

1. You can attend the live webinars at the dates and times listed below
2. You can sign up for the asynchronous session in which the recording of the live session is sent out right afterwards
3. You can opt for our self-study which you complete on your own.

Live sessions are scheduled on the following dates and times:

- February - Tuesday (9, 16, 23) at 3 PM Eastern, 2 PM Central, 1 PM Mountain, 12 PM Pacific
- March - Tuesday (9, 16, 23) at 11 AM Eastern, 10 AM Central, 9 AM Mountain, 8 AM Pacific
- April - Thursday (8, 15, 22) at 11 AM Eastern, 10 AM Central, 9 AM Mountain, 8 AM Pacific
- May - Tuesday (4, 11, 18) at 3 PM Eastern, 2 PM Central, 1 PM Mountain, 12 PM Pacific

You can sign up for any of these sessions at the following site: <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/AxTKO2R2>

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."

Comments from GRAPE Camp Participants (continued):

"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."

Recent Graduates of GRAPE Camp include:

| NAME | BOARD | INSTITUTION |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Betsy Macht | Business | Walden University |
| Florence Gitau | Business | Kenyata University |
| Melodie Kolmetz | Health Sciences | Ithaca College |
| Maha Hassan | Teacher Education | |
| Marcos Locono | Chemistry | Saint Marcus University |
| Suzanne Soltysik | Health Sciences | St. Bonaventure University |
| Sathyanarayana Appia | Mathematics | BITS PILANI WILP |
| Pamela Rothpletz-Puglia | Health Sciences | Rutgers University |
| David Jennings | Instructional Technology | University College Dublin |
| Tiffany Hine | Business | Blue Ridge Community College |
| Cotton Coslett | Library and Information Services | Calstate-Fullerton |
| Mandy Hertel | Sociology | Western Dakota Tech |
| Elaine Bernal | Chemistry | Calstate-Long Beach |
| Christian Mercat | Mathematics | University of Lyon |

News

Editorial Board News

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

Three MERLOT Editorial Boards submitted proposals to Innovate and had them accepted: Psychology and Teacher Education. Be sure to check them out on the list of presentations for the conference.

Fake News in Context - 1st Edition - Lesley S. J. Farmer - Routledge



Lesley Farmer, Editor of ICT Literacy has a new book out, *Fake News in Context* <https://www.routledge.com/Fake-News-in-Context/Farmer/p/book/9780367416805>

Fake News in Context defines fake news and sets it within a historical and international context. Helping readers to become more skilled at detecting misinformation, the book also demonstrates how such knowledge can be leveraged to facilitate more effective engagement in civic education.

Meet the Editors - Elaine Bernal, Chemistry



Elaine Villanueva Bernal, Ed.D. is a Lecturer from the CSULB Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for over 14 years, and recently started teaching Global Climate Change at CSU Dominguez Hills. She earned her Ed.D from CSULB in 2016 and is the first Pilipina alumni of the program. Dr. Bernal is a published researcher and experienced facilitator for STEM faculty professional development in higher education and K-12.

From 2017-2019, Dr. Bernal was appointed to be the Internship Program Coordinator for the CSULB College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, where she implemented professional development workshops and industry and networking events for over 2,000 students. Dr. Bernal currently oversees student outreach and engagement for the Learning-based Educational Program (LEAP) and Mentored Excellence Toward Research and Industry Careers (METRIC) Program - NSF projects that focus on experiential learning and career development for Latinx students in STEM.

Nancyruth Leibold, Health Sciences



Nancyruth Leibold recently accepted the position of Health Sciences Editor at MERLOT. Nancyruth is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing at Southwest Minnesota State University. She earned a Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Certificate from Minnesota State. Nancyruth holds certification as a Nurse Educator (CNE), board certification as an Advanced Holistic Nurse (AHN-BC), and in Creative Commons. Additionally, she is a Usui Reiki Master/Teacher, holds a certificate of Accredited Reflexology, Mindfulness, and is a Certified Forgiveness Coach/Practitioner. Nancyruth is a Master Reviewer for Quality Matters. She is the founder of Omega Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (Nursing Honor Society) and serves on the Omega Omicron board. Nancyruth earned an EdD from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska, a MN in Nursing from Creighton University, and a BSN from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Nancyruth has a special interest in open education resources (OER). She has written numerous OER publications. Nancyruth is currently writing a holistic nursing OER textbook that is interactive and includes engaging multimedia short lessons. She is currently the principal investigator of a forest bathing (spending time in the woods) study and the principal investigator of a higher education online feedback study.

Nancyruth is a year-round avid forest bather with her dog, a Norwegian Elkhound. She lives in Minnesota and spends as much time as possible in nature and State/National parks!

Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards

Beginning in February, 2021, each month a reviewer's name will be drawn from reviews completed that month. The winner will receive a gift card. The more you review, the greater your chances to win!

Out and About with MERLOT

Congratulations to **Irene Knokh**, Editor of Instructional Design and Technology Editorial Board. She received a scholarship to the EDUCAUSE conference and earned a badge as an Ambassador for EDUCAUSE.

The Private Academic Library Network of Indiana (PALNI) awarded **Paul Bowdre** (Editor of Criminal Justice) their PALSave Open Educator Award. The Open Educator Award recognizes innovation and excellence in support of textbook affordability and student success. As a PALSave [PALNI Affordable Learning] Course Redesign Grant awardee during the 2019-2020 academic year, Paul participated in a pilot program that focused on redesigning a course using zero-cost course material and providing feedback to shape the future of the grant program. He redesigned the Criminal Justice Capstone Course at Oakland City University using MERLOT's Criminal Justice Community learning material. I then built a site for the course material using MERLOT's Content Builder.

If you are interested, additional information on PALSave is available at <https://www.palni.org/2020/12/04/palsave-program-serves-faculty-and-students-amid-affordability-concerns-in-private-higher-education/>.

Bertrand Tchoumi (new editor of World Languages Board) has been busy. Current publications include:

- Tchoumi, B. (2020a). Why do you "talk" like that? The accented voices of Black African immigrants in school leadership (Doctoral dissertation). Morgan State University, Baltimore: MD
- Tchoumi, B. (2020b). The Leadership of the Marginalized: A Literature Review. *Journal of Educational Leadership in Action*, 7(1). Retrieved from *The Leadership of the Marginalized: A Literature Review | Volume 7, Issue 1 | Journal of Educational Leadership in Action (ELA)*
- Tchoumi, B. (2020c). Searching for theoretical agency: Towards a Black African immigrant standpoint epistemology. *Revista de Estudos Africanos*, (1), 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.15366/rea2020.1.001>

Jeff Kahn (MERLOT Tech Team Manager) writing under the pseudonym Jason Green has a new book out, *A River to My People*. It is a collection of short stories about life in the suburbs and the funny and infuriating antics, behaviors, rules, and regulations of community life. While every neighborhood is unique, people are people, and you are going to bump into many of the same types: the gossip, the penny-pincher, the blowhard, the maverick, and all the rest. Our subdivision is no exception to the rule that truth is stranger than fiction. Every story is true, only the names have been changed to be more ridiculous.

Learn why Jason just "must do something about" the problem of the day. Follow these droll tales of walking dogs, trying to get grass to grow, dealing with speeding by teenagers and parents, errant parking, the work and the pleasure of a backyard swimming pool, homeowners association election politics, and so much more.

Links to the books / Amazon purchase details are: https://www.amazon.com/River-People-Jason-Green-Stories-ebook-dp-B07RLLKLCL/dp/B07RLLKLCL/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1557513789

Moore Musings

Dear Jane:

How does a fully online conference work? Do I have to be online at a specific time? What if it conflicts with my teaching?

– Curious

Dear Curious,

It's amazing how enjoyable and educational a fully online conference can be. OLC and MERLOT have worked hard (beginning soon after Innovate 2020) to create a conference that includes time specific and asynchronous sessions. And the social events are great fun. The best part is that if you have to miss a session because of a scheduling conflict, you can have access to that session for a calendar year after the conference. Those who attended Innovate 2020 were amazed at how flawlessly it worked...give it a try!

Jane

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 by the first Wednesday of the month in which you wish it to be published. 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!

