

# The development and testing of some Learning Technology

A.N. Other\*

Affiliation

All papers are required to have an abstract. This short paragraph should explain why this development constitutes a piece of research – note that reports of development work will not be accepted for publication unless they represent a new method, a novel application or some other important principle that is relevant to other academics or support staff. The application should be described briefly, the methods for testing should be explained and any important findings noted.

## **Introduction**

This short section should describe the piece of learning technology being developed, mention why it was needed and state how its development is relevant to research.

## **Background**

As with any research paper, the background section should start with a review of relevant literature that will place this particular development in context. The review might (for example) show that there is a pedagogic or organisational niche that has been neglected, which this new development will address.

## **The application**

This section should state the purpose of the application, explain the development methodology used and briefly outline the process undertaken. The application should be described (briefly – it may help to compare it to existing resources, in terms of similarities or differences), and images or screenshots should be used to illustrate it where appropriate.

## **Piloting or testing the application**

Development articles that do not include some empirical support for their design or some data that illustrates their significance are unlikely to be accepted. A number of methods might be used for such piloting, but observation of use and/or interviews, surveys or focus groups with users would be amongst the most common. The purpose of the piloting (e.g. refining the software, demonstrating that it addresses a particular issue, investigating an area of concern) should be stated and the methodology described before reporting any findings. Ethical issues (such as confidentiality, informed consent, whether ethical approval was sought) should be discussed as part of the methodology. The report of findings might include excerpts of data (quotes, photographs, screen shots, etc.) that illustrate or exemplify points made, and would typically be organised as a series of sub-headings, each on a different theme.

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\* Email address

## Discussion

The discussion section should substantiate the claim that this is, indeed, a research paper and not simply a report on development work. The initial literature should be revisited in light of the development and empirical work and any insights gained or issues addressed should be highlighted. (It might be possible to do this within the conclusions.)

## Conclusions

The conclusion should re-state why this piece of development represents a piece of research and summarise the implications of the work. Directions for future research might be suggested, as might implications for other development activities.

## References

These should be listed in the standard format:

Author, A. & Author, B. (Date) Title of article, *Title of journal*, Volume, page start – page end.

Author, A. (Date) *Title of book* (Place of publication, Publishing company).

Author, A. (Date) Title of chapter, in A. Editor A. (Ed) *Title of book* (Place of publication, Publishing company).

Author, A. (Date) *Title of technical report or other document* (Place of publication, Institution or other producing organisation).

Where references include online elements, cite them in the following format:

Organisation (n.d. – short for No Date) Available online: www.URL, late accessed date.

Author, A. (Date) *Title of technical report or other document* (Place of publication, Institution or other producing organisation). Available online: www.URL, last accessed date.