Faculty respond: "How do you find and use online teaching materials?"

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Study Methodology

We have completed eleven focus groups at a range of higher education institutions. Participants included faculty from a variety of disciplines. While this is just the first phase of the research we are beginning to see patterns of motivation to use materials, the kinds of materials sought, and how faculty filter these materials. We are also gathering descriptions of barriers faculty encounter in using online resources.

We are drawn to the question of how faculty work practice affects use of online learning materials and how digital libraries can align their services with this practice. Our preliminary knowledge about work practices of faculty from a variety of institutional types is summarized in the center panel of this poster.

Future plans

From the responses to these focus groups we are designing a survey. The survey will be administered nationally. We hope to better understand more about work practice and the services that can be provided by content providers like digital libraries to educators to better engage students. And, you can help.

- 1 Center for Biology Education and Academic Technology, University of Wisconsin - Madison
- 2 MERLOT
- 3 Office of the Chancellor, California State University
- 4 Science Education Resource Center, Carleton College

