

I find the process of reviewing literature to be tedious and actually pretty boring. One problem I find is that there is a lot of research about education available, but very little of it is actually relevant when it comes to Educational Technology. In some ways I'll concede that much of educational research regarding pedagogy is the same today as it was five years ago. However, research about technology in the classroom that is even two years old can be obsolete by now. If you stop and think that the iPad was only released three and a half years ago, and only started becoming prevalent in classrooms about two years ago, you can start to see why five year-old research can be outdated.

If you think about sites like Khan Academy, Coursera, EdX, etc. and the MOOC movement, they are starting to completely revolutionize education (How far they'll get is a different story) and are pushing the concept of the Flipped Classroom to new levels. Students are able to find reliable, free, and even engaging content about just about anything whenever they want. Who needs a textbook when there's a video lesson about the civil war online, that comes with a community of learners to inspire and encourage you? Obviously research is coming out now about the effectiveness of MOOCs, online learning, and even the impact of truly free education. This research is valuable to the study of education technology, but it is often new, barely peer-reviewed, and lacking substantial endorsement. All of these factors make it hard to find amongst the thousands upon thousands of pages of well-known, peer-reviewed, fact checked, research.

Taking all of that into account, accurate research on educational technology does in fact exist. And so as it relates to collecting the research I generally use my typical organization methods when I find good literature related to my topic. I generally use Academic Search Premier, offered for free to FSU students, and conduct searches using techniques I've learned in other Information Literacy classes. Conducting effective searches involves knowing how to use booleans, knowing what to look for, and knowing how to evaluate resources for legitimacy. Once I find resources I want to use, or at least come back to, I will save the resource as a PDF in Google Drive. Then, Google does all kinds of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) magic and converts the whole document into searchable text. This makes it much easier to find keywords and phrases. I will often skim the resources I find, and use Notability on my iPad to highlight the document. I will often highlight important things to remember in one color, and then facts and helpful quotes that I can reuse in my research in another color. Then, the document gets saved to Google Drive with the highlights, and I can move on to the next piece.

Sometimes, I'll find an article or piece of literature just by browsing the web. As more and more research is contributed to free open-source libraries like PLOS (Public Library of Science), it becomes important to search there as well. If a document is not downloadable as a PDF, or is formatted for viewing on the web, I will often use an application called Evernote Clearly to remove all of the ads, and unnecessary content so that I can just get the text. I will then print the result as a PDF and save it to my Google Drive where I can begin the process of highlighting important parts.

Finding research is a skill that I am lucky to have practiced over and over again, and my familiarity with conducting effective searches, as well as evaluating content for legitimacy make it much easier. But none of that will solve the problem of a lack of valuable, reliable research being available. As time goes on, more will come, but for now, I will continue to scour all possible areas

for the research and literature that I need.

My Response to Mark Lonergan

I've spent 6 years on/off working with SharePoint and I don't think I've EVER heard it used in the same sentence as "great". I will concede that the concept of SharePoint is great, but the user interface is just cumbersome and it most certainly is a pain to be the Administrator of it. (This is in relation to SharePoint 2010, I hear 2013 is a HUGE improvement.) That being said, your idea of using one tool as a collection point is great. I use Google Drive, but could just as easily use Evernote, DropBox, Box, etc. Any cloud based tool with which I can access the documents anywhere and everywhere is great. I find that living a busy lifestyle gives me very little time to actually carve out hours on end to read research papers and such. Therefore, having them available on my phone, my tablets, my laptops, etc. allows me to study the research when I find I do have time. On the bus/T commuting to work, my Lunch hour, before bed, etc. Many of these tools also have annotation built in, or can be integrated with annotation apps to enable highlighting and commenting. Regardless of the tool you use, or the system you create for yourself, make sure it works for you. So often people try to mimic other people's successful efforts, and occasionally find success, but usually can't seem to make it work for them. If a notebook and pen(cil) work for you, by all means go for it. Who am I to tell you that Evernote is best, or that SharePoint is useless? You know your own habits better than anyone, and I always encourage people to try new things but stick with what works for them.

My Response to Jacqueline Henry

You know, I think there would be many many people who would be shocked to hear me say this, but there are times, particularly when doing research that I prefer a printed PDF. I mean, I work for a publishing company trying to drive content online, and into the digital space. But when push comes to shove, there just isn't a good solution (Samsung Galaxy Note tablets excluded) for marking up a document on a tablet. Sure, there are styli you can buy, but they are far from natural to use, and I find myself giving up shortly after starting to use them. However, that being said, the process for me always begins and ends with technology. I very rarely, if ever, go to a library to pull books off of the shelves and read them. I will use EBSCO, or a similar site to find the materials, save the ones I like, sometimes I'll skim them on-screen to make sure they're worthy of being printed, and then print what I need. Sure, I spend time highlighting on my iPad sometimes. I like the ability to quickly switch colors, or to erase something if I make a mistake. But I just feel more comfortable when I have the pieces of paper in front of me. However, once I'm done, the pages get scanned and go right back online. Into a folder on Google Drive, into an Evernote Notebook, or some other cloud solution, I just don't trust myself not to lose the hard copy that I've marked up. I do know many people who do the coffee/sweats/books in the quiet space of a library, and that works well for them. Like I said in my post on Mark's response, if it works for you, by all means, do it. I just know it's not for me.

My Response to Elizabeth Wescott

Elizabeth! How could I have missed this so far? I love your research topic! Though it is not one I would dive into, it is one I am deeply fascinated by. I, along with all three of my siblings, went

through the French immersion program in the Holliston Public Schools. We did all-day French from Kindergarten to 2nd grade and then half/half French and English from 3rd to fifth, and Middle and High School were just periods of French. It was nothing short of amazing. All 4 of us, at different times of course, were fluent in French by the time we were in first grade. Looking back it was probably one of the most critical factors in my educational development. Last I checked there were only 13 public schools in the country with a French immersion program, but I can imagine there are many more with Spanish immersion. I think Holliston has expanded now to do both French and Spanish. I would be more than happy to put you in touch with Terry Caccavale the coordinator/director of language for Holliston Public Schools. She pioneered the French immersion program some 30 or 40 years ago and has worked to develop it ever since. She has won many international honors and awards for her work. I'm sure she has done enormous research herself (She now has her PhD) and would also know of a lot of research that might help you. Let me know if you're interested in connecting with her. Best of luck on your research, and I am very much looking forward to how it turns out. As a firsthand immersion student, I can tell you, the effects are incredible. Not just on the development of the foreign language, but on language development overall.