Faculty & Student Spotlight
Experience with Qualtrics for Research by Dr. Myrna Olson & Austin Winger

In the fall of 2012, Dr. Lori Swinney and Dr. Tim Pasch introduced us to the survey tool known as Qualtrics. We were preparing to send out a large survey for our research study about technology use in classrooms on the University of North Dakota campus. We began creating the survey in Qualtrics, with guidance from Lori and Tim. The interface is very clean and simple to use, making the process enjoyable. Most all functions are easy to perform, and the whole software program is very flexible. The only issue we had was the numbering system for the questions; at times, it became skewed when we needed to delete or relocate them. There is likely a way to fix this, but it was not apparent at the time. We created two surveys; one for faculty and one for students. In hindsight, it would have been much easier if we had created one survey with “skip-logic,” to designate the faculty from students taking the survey. At the end, we would have been able to analyze the results in Qualtrics, rather than exporting them to SPSS, as we had to do at this time.

The UND Office of Research provided us with a random sample of 1,497 student emails, and all 787 fully benefited faculty emails. We compiled these email addresses into Qualtrics and created an invitation message to potential participants. The email feature of Qualtrics was extremely user-friendly, allowing us to send out the messages quickly, accurately, and it documented all information about when and where the messages were sent. It also allowed us to send out reminder emails later in the semester using the saved template message we initially sent out.

Dr. Myrna Olson and Austin Winger presented their research at the International Academic Research Conference.

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Director’s Corner ~ A Note from the Director

It finally feels like winter is finished with us. Students are running around campus wearing shorts and flip flops, staff in our building are begging to have the steam heat turned off and the Wellness Center’s Walking Challenge has ended, it must be summer! The past few weeks have kept us busy helping students submit final assignments, edit videos, take quizzes, get rid of viruses (computer), watch Tegrity recordings, remember where they stored their files in NetStorage and answer all the tech questions they didn’t remember to ask until now. Faculty are working on grading, making sure the final exams are available, posting tips for the final assignments, and making sure we are all helping the students meet their goals for the semester. This is a time of year I enjoy most when we can help relieve a little bit of (tech) stress for students and faculty.

We are very excited to be working with our new Provost, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo. When he first arrived I sent him a copy of our April newsletter and he responded … “WOW, outstanding, would like to meet your staff and include a note in the next newsletter.” I followed up by explaining that the next issue is coming out in a few days. He said OK and I was amazed that two days later, his first “official” day at UND, he joined our staff meeting and spent more than an hour visiting with everyone. Staff shared stories about themselves and the work they do to help make UND exceptional. There was a lot of laughter when Dr. DiLorenzo told us about how hard it is to find buildings on campus when directions are given by north, south, east or west. He explained that doesn’t help when he hasn’t seen the sun for days (I had told him to come in our south door). Catherine asked if he had the UND Mobile App and he said no. James jumped up, showed him how to install it so he won’t have a problem finding our building again. We are all looking forward to working together providing UND students, faculty and staff support for instructional and learning technologies.

Faculty Spotlight continued

Overall, our experience with Qualtrics was extremely positive. We found it much more user-friendly and functional than similar softwares, such as Survey Monkey. We presented our research from this study in Scottsdale, AZ at an international academic conference on April 19, 2013. It was an amazing experience, and we were awarded best presentation in the education track of the conference! Lori and Tim were instrumental in helping us learn the capabilities of Qualtrics, and we are very grateful for their assistance. We extend a big thanks to everyone who helped us make our research study a success!

A Message from Provost
Tom DiLorenzo

As most of you are probably aware, I started my new position as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on May first. In addition to the committed and friendly people that I found at UND during my visits, I was also drawn to the University for the excellent academic and support programs that I found all over the campus. CILT is one of those. I had the opportunity to spend some time with most of the staff (on my first day on the job) and I walked away extremely impressed with the operation. I am so excited that we are able to provide such an important support to the faculty in the service of quality teaching. I look forward to working with Director Swinney’s group and the faculty to further advance the mission of Exceptional UND.

The CILT Connection newsletter will return in August 2013. There will be no new issues in June or July to allow CILT staff to focus on Freshman Orientation, Teaching with Technology, classroom upgrades, testing for software updates, and more.
I consider it a privilege of my scholarly life on our campus, to regularly enjoy the opportunity to interact with students and colleagues who are passionate about technology. In this brief article I would like to focus on sharing my perspective on the Atomic Learning suite, and in particular the benefits of its direct integration capabilities with learning management systems.

Atomic Learning is an online training & tutorial service that we at UND subscribe to: meaning that it is available to students, faculty and staff on campus at no additional charge. What I find to be compelling with the Atomic Learning product, is the fact that each lesson is divided into very brief (what I will call) “learning snippets”. The brevity of the video tutorials included in Atomic (each Learning “snippet” only lasts approximately 2 minutes) is a benefit, in my view; as learning topics are split up into highly digestible “bytes” rather than lengthy feature-film styled expositions.

In my classes (on campus, and online), students have expressed their appreciation for the fact that the small size and reasonable expectations for learning in each Atomic Learning clip make it more palatable to watch several videos at a sitting, rather than feeling forced to watch an entire film-length tutorial.

The breadth of software training video clips included in Atomic Learning is impressive, and ranges from the standard trainings for the Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Creative Suite, to more specialized packages such as SPSS and SAS. It also includes entire sections on broad-based topics such as programming languages, coding for the web, mobile device use, multimedia creation (blogging/podcasting, etc), and much more. Difficulty ranges from beginner levels, to the most advanced and subtle aspects of a topic. There are even topics on “how to use an iPhone” and other very practical tutorials.

If you have not yet tried the service, you can login at: atomiclearning.com/login/UND.

As faculty, what I appreciate most about the service is the direct linking between Atomic Learning and other digital content. Atomic Learning content can be embedded into assignments (such as blogs) using very easy to generate HTML links. Students have expressed their appreciation to me at seeing the links appear directly in their online assignments, as this saves time and encourages viewing.

To embed Atomic video links, after logging in (you use your standard UND login); you will be asked to choose a tutorial. From here, click the “Create Easy Links” button on the left. Click “Preview Easy Links”, and then “Get Easy Links HTML” to generate these nicely formatted codes. The Atomic Learning HTML embed codes are not limited to UND’s Blackboard either: they can be copied and pasted into any HTML-compliant page (such as eZ LMS, Moodle, Qualtrics, etc) and as long as a user is able to log into Atomic Learning (if they have a valid UND login); they will be able to access the material.

Overall, I very highly recommend Atomic Learning as a high-quality video-tutorial supplement to in-class and online instruction, and one that provides an elegant means of linking these videos services.

For more information on Atomic Learning, as well as information on Lynda.com, CILT Workshops, U2 and other training opportunities please visit http://training.UND.edu.
One of the best resources for everyone at the University is the Knowledgebase Search that is available on UND Tech Support pages. You can answer most of your Tech Support questions by going to: UND.edu/tech-support/

Once you load the page, the right side of nearly every screen will have a search box titled “Search the Knowledgebase.” The information in here is so up to date and useful that our staff and student workers tend to check here first for most answers to your calls and chats. Click into the search box and type in whatever you would like to find out (keywords tend to work best). You may also click on the green text “Search the Knowledgebase” to get a listing of topics (http://und.edu/tech-support/knowledgebase.cfm).

Once you enter in your search criteria, you are presented with your search results and any related articles in case you need them. Some of these articles even include links to videos created by our staff. You may also rank the usefulness of the article under Feedback or click on a link to start a chat with our support staff.

One thing that it not searchable within the Knowledgebase is the UND faculty, staff or student directories. If you wish to search for individuals please visit https://UND.edu/directory/.

We hope that you will use this fantastic tool in the future for most of your Tech Support needs. We also go through the search results frequently to find out what is being searched for the most and if new search terms need to be created for our more popular articles. If you have a suggestion for a new article, we are always happy to hear from you.

Good luck and happy searching!
Support Report: Introducing a few more CILT Staff

Christopher Remme
I joined the University of North Dakota on March 18th as the Desktop Lead for CILT and the Director of Technology for the Art's and Sciences. Originally from Grand Forks, I spent the last twelve years working for the University of Mary in Bismarck where I managed the university’s Help Desk.

I spend most of my free time outdoors hiking and geocaching. I’ve been enjoying my time back on campus seeing all of the changes and meeting new people. I’m looking forward to the challenges this new position offers. If there is anything I can help with please call or stop by and see me, I'm located on the third floor in the Memorial Union.

Shae Samuelson
I grew up in a small town of 200 people and after graduating high school, I moved to Grand Forks to attend UND. While attending UND, I worked in the Space Studies department and in the hospitality industry. After I graduated from UND with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management & Marketing in the summer of 2011, I worked in the hospitality industry full time. After several months, I decided I wanted to be part of the UND community again and was hired in February 2012 as the Administrative Assistant for the Center for Instructional & Learning Technologies (CILT) department. My position consists of an array of duties from providing administrative support to student payroll. In August 2012, I also took over the duties of Software Sales. In my free time, I enjoy traveling and taking on new adventures.

Caleb Holthusen
I have worked for the Center for Instructional & Learning Technologies here at UND since the fall of 2009. I mainly assist Classroom Services as an Instructional Support Technologist and Collaboration Services as an Audio Engineer. The service and support I offer includes software, classroom hardware, audio and video technologies, operating system and application support for faculty, students and staff. I am the lead for the “Collaboration Stations” on campus which, in their infancy in 2010 were an innovative technology for web-conferencing, wireless file transfer and collaboration. I can't say what I am best at, but if I had to choose it would be audio and video editing and production, it is something that comes natural to me and I sincerely enjoy doing it. Before I came to UND I worked as a freelance audio engineer for Marketing Architects in Minneapolis, MN.

I am an alumnus of McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, MN class of 2006 and have a degree in Recording Technology. I received my Liberal Arts degree from Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls, MN in 2000. In the years of 2000-2003, I studied Art, Graphic Design, Multi-media, Advertising and Public Relations at Minnesota State University Moorhead. I plan on continuing my education here at UND with the Communication department focusing on independent studies in Digital Media.

I enjoy spending time with my wife and three daughters and building our new home together. I also enjoy my work as a musician and recording engineer on the weekends.

May 13th ~ Learning with Mobile Devices and eBooks

The Center for Instructional & Learning Technologies is hosting a workshop on Learning with Mobile Devices and eBooks on May 13 for faculty and staff to learn about supporting students in using mobile devices and eBook versions of textbooks. eBook versions of textbooks are becoming more common, and offer (or require) different ways of reading, note-taking and studying that may be unfamiliar to students. Mobile devices such as smartphones, iPads and tablets, and apps on laptops support eBook use, and also offer other study, communication and collaboration resources. These include self-assessment applications, real-time web-conferencing, and collaborative editing programs. Demonstrations and hands-on sessions will introduce you to more learning options for your students.

Workshop sessions include:
- Communication and Collaboration
- Study Skills Software and Apps
- Product Showcase of iPads, Tablets, Smartphones
- eBooks in the Classroom

The workshop is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 13th, in Education, Room 5.
Click here to register or contact Shae Samuelson at 777-2129 or shae.samuelson@UND.edu.