Writing a Scholarly Technology Review Article
For the *International HETL Review*

Introduction

The technology application you choose to review must be approved by the Executive Editor and the Editor-in-Chief of the HETL Review. The technology application you write about should be directly related to the topic of teaching and learning in higher education. The technology topic should be innovative and clearly present new information that advances the practice of teaching and learning in higher education. What practical and applied benefits does the technology topic provide to educators? How does the technology enhance teaching and learning? Does the technology offer something novel and unique?

The technology review article will entail providing a critique and overview of a technology application - its usefulness to educators, its applications for teaching and learning, its strengths and weaknesses, etc. The technology review article should be part user experience (how you or other educators are using the technology, what benefits it provides to teaching and learning, etc.) and part literature review on the specific application and the broader technology in general.

The technology topic may be general or specific but the technology should, ideally, be applicable to a wide range of disciplines in academia and the technology should be applicable across different cultural and national settings. In other words, the technology should have universal appeal and applicability. The technology can be about pedagogical applications or learning applications or administrative/policy applications. The *technology review article is not a research study or theoretical work; rather it is a practical explanation of how educators and learners can use and benefit from the technology but should be written in a scholarly manner nonetheless.*

Step 1: The reviewer, via the article, should demonstrate expertise with the technology

Be sure you have a deep, but practical, understanding of what the technology is about and how it can be used by educators in an applied manner. Please do not just provide a cursory overview of the technology – an overview that educators could easily find elsewhere (e.g., Wikipedia or the product's website) or that would be of scant benefit to educators. The technology review article should show educators not just what the technology is used for, but also how they can apply it to a teaching and learning context. In other words, be sure to explain the who, what, why, and how of the technology – who are the main users of the technology (target audience), what key benefits can educators and learners gain from using the technology, why the technology is important to teaching and learning (e.g., supporting references and web links, models, theories, frameworks), and how educators can apply the technology (e.g., vignettes, examples, mini case studies).

Step 2: Develop a clear and coherent structure for the review article

The technology review article should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words in total. For all reviews, please use the following, suggested structure and use APA formatting and referencing.

Overview

This section should provide a good background and introduction of the technology and it should set the foundation for the body of the article. This section should be about two or three paragraphs. Clearly identify the type of technology application (e.g., software, hardware, Web-based, non-Web-based, etc.) a brief history of the technology, typical users of the technology, how to access the technology (e.g., application Website, associated Web links for the technology), main purposes/uses of the technology, who the main users are (e.g., target audience).

Review

This section should be about two-thirds (2/3) of the paper (i.e., roughly 1,000 – 1,250 words). This part of the article is the core of your review. Clearly explain *how to* set up and use the technology, how the technology is currently being used or can be used (e.g., vignettes, examples, mini case studies), and *why* the technology is important. Be sure to support this section with supporting references and web links, supporting theories, examples, images of application screens, tables/graphs, etc. Be sure to explain not just the key features of the technology but also how those features can benefit educators (i.e., *what* key benefits can educators and learners gain from using the technology). Explain the relative merits of the technology – its strengths and possible weaknesses.

Conclusion

This section should provide a good conclusion about your overall assessment of the technology and the key points for the readers. This section should be about one or two paragraphs.

Finally, provide a reference list or bibliography of the sources you referred to.

Step 3: Review and edit your article before submitting

After you have completed a final draft of the review article, be sure you have corrected any spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting errors. With respect to comprehension and cogency, put yourself in the shoes of another reader and ask yourself the following questions:

- Does the article clearly explain why the topic is important to the higher education community?
- Does the article clearly explain what contribution(s) or benefits the technology provides?
- Is the article clear and coherent throughout and free of overly technical jargon or idiomatic expressions (e.g., figures of speech) or humor that will not translate across cultures?
- Is there a logical progression and flow to the development of the article?
- Is the article engaging and interesting?

When you are satisfied with your review article, please send it to Krassie Petrova at Krassie.petrova@aut.ac.nz