

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR CYBERLEARNING PROPOSAL REVIEWERS

PURPOSE

A pressing learning need combined with the opportunity to use technology to address the need.

- How important is the proposed work?
- How well its importance been justified?
- How clear is the proposal about what it will take to get there?
- How well do the innovation and research address the purpose? How well-poised is the approach for eventually achieving that purpose?

INNOVATION

A new or emerging learning environment enabled by technology that aims beyond state-of-the-art and be informed by best available research on how people learn and best available technology design. The innovation should have potential to transform learning to spawn a new genre of learning environments and must be iteratively refined during the project.

- What is the new genre or configuration of technology proposed? How well is it laid out in the proposal? How novel is it? How well does it advance state of the art?
- How well is it informed by research -- on technology, learning processes, targeted population, and so on?
- How well will the innovation address the purpose? What will learners' experience be like? What is expected to happen as a result of that experience? How are learner experiences expected to affect learning? How well-justified are the claims?
- How well will what you aim to build serve as a model or representative of the new genre?
- How will you build and refine it? What is the starting point? What is the process?

RESEARCH ADVANCING HOW PEOPLE LEARN

Proposals should present clear research questions and appropriate methods to address them. Research should inform theory about learning processes, fostering learning, assessing learning, and/or designing for learners and advance understanding of processes involved in learning, representations those processes use, what happens through those processes, influences on those processes, and/or how to influence those processes.

- What are the research questions? How well formed are they and how well are they informed by prior work? How important are they?
- What literature(s) will they contribute to?

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- What are the research methods, study design, and study context? How appropriate are the methods to answering the questions? How appropriate are the questions and methods to the stage of the innovation's development?
- How will the research add to theory? What new conceptual understandings will be learned from the research? Does it go beyond mere evaluation?

RESEARCH PROMOTING BROAD USE & TRANSFERABILITY OF THE GENRE

The research should extract guidelines for designing and using the new genre, that is, for EXPs: basic affordances, challenges to effective use, and properties of use-in-context, for DIPs: design and use rules of thumb that others may use in developing applications and enactments and for INTs: clear research questions should be posed and answered about the new genre and its ecosystem.

- What are the goals for understanding the potential for broad use or transferability? How appropriate are they to the stage of the innovation's development?
- How will the proposed work yield progress on these goals?
- What will we know at the end of this project about how to promote or assess learning better than we did not know before?
- To what kinds of other innovations and applications will this new knowledge apply? Will others designing new instances of the genre benefit from the work?

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Teams should include all of the expertise you need to achieve both your technical and research goals. Advisory boards should include both members who complement the expertise of researchers and members who can contribute to critical review of the project.

- To what extent does the team have the expertise to carry out the project?
- To what extent has that expertise clearly been used in putting the proposal together?
- What is the plan for using that expertise well while carrying out the project?
- How well have you articulated team member expertise, roles, collaboration, and coordination in the Collaboration and Management Plan?