Reflections from The Techies
Tamela Anderson, Nico Lindsey, Nicole Makowski

Tamela Anderson:
I thoroughly enjoyed doing this project. Our team met face to face almost every week. All of our creations are the result of all three of us giving our input, then mulling over the ideas, and reaching a final compromise. When push came to shove, we let whoever we felt had the most expertise in the area decide between the options. Team work is about dividing the work, I think we did that well. Usually, it ended up that we all then looked at the each person’s results and added suggestions again. Every aspect of this project was a joint effort that evolved into our final project and paperwork.

We all used our strengths to produce a quality video, final paper, and power point presentation. For instance, Nico knew more about the technical video creating, but Nikki and I gave input about the visual formatting and wording. Nikki is a super fast typist. We would all three discuss and give suggestions on the ideas to be written. Nikki would type while I dictated the phrasing. I also would then edit and reword when necessary because I am better at proofreading. I provided a visual and sequencing of what each part of the project would look like on Springboard! while Nikki organized the digital module because she wanted to see the order the students would utilize the portions and provide uniform formatting. Even though we didn’t agree on everything, I think we learned how to communicate, compromise, and collaborate well with this project.

This ID project seemed very easy in the beginning. But ultimately, it was very time consuming and a ton of work. I think this is because we were willing to put in the time and effort needed after considering the input from others. We implemented two trial runs. I think we were all quite surprised at how difficult it was for the participants to apply our initial instructions and complete the tasks using the videos, mainly because we had already made quite a few improvements from its original version. Everything was revised over and over. For me, it was reassuring that our SMEs both liked our finished projects (module and video.)

The SMEs’ materials really helped us a lot. They gave us guidelines that helped our group form the vision of what the final results would look like. I also appreciated the fact that our SMEs responded so quickly to our questions. They really worked with us well by being so considerate of our timeline.

Nico Lindsey:
The first thing I would like to reflect on is that this project was a lot of work. Much more work than I ever expected. With that being said I also learned a lot. I learned how to successfully use and implement an ID project. In the end I truly believe that we have designed and implemented a great project. Our subject matter experts seemed to be very pleased with the end results. I am confident that our SME’s will be able to use our project for years to come.

I also had a great time while working with my team. As a team we could have tried working on the project strictly by email or by some other remote form of communication, but we decided it was very valuable for us to meet face to face every week (besides spring break of course). I think our face to face meetings made us a better, true team. We got to know each other very
well. Everybody brought a different perspective, which allowed each of us to have our own input on every aspect of the project. This produced a cohesive and very successful project.

The most difficult thing was just life. Life, made it difficult to get things done in a timely matter sometimes. All three members of our group work full time and have many other things going on in our lives besides work and grad school. Fortunately though we were able to work around whatever surprises came up and still turn in a quality final project.

Overall, this project has been a great experience. Not only do feel a great sense of accomplishment over completing the project, but I also learned a lot and made some new friends along the way.

Nicole Makowski
Overall, our project went smoothly. It was much more work and time consuming than I had first anticipated. Our team worked well with each other. We may not have always agreed on everything, but we always compromised to solve our ID problem. Our team had met face to face weekly for approximately two hours at a time as well as communicated throughout the week via email and spent several hours creating the instructional materials. We had to edit and repurpose our materials several times. I think we changed our learning goal and objectives alone at least ten times throughout the process! I am really glad we had implemented our project twice. We learned a lot from the first implementation. We saw a different perspective of our project. We had been working with it so closely that we had overlooked some minor details. We also saw what we needed to do to make our project more user friendly. Our second implementation ran much smoother and we even had a bigger target audience! We expanded our target audience to try and include some of the current online students rather than just having the in-service teachers we work with at our schools. I hope that our project will be of great help to the online students in Dr. Liang’s course and they find it just as easy as we do to navigate through the online databases.

It was a neat experience to work on an authentic project with two subject matter experts. Each of our experts helped us with their different parts of our project. When it came to actual library questions or database questions we turned to Dr. Abby for guidance. When it came to the actual teaching style of the course, we turned to Dr. Liang. I truly hope that our project will in fact be used beyond Dr. Liang’s course; it is very exciting to think that our hard work and efforts has the potential to benefit an entire educational master’s program.