




## Scholarship in teaching and learning (SoTL) in Canadian post-secondary science: peer-reviewed journal articles, 2000 - 2010

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University of Western Ontario



## Evidence for SoTL is diverse

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- Peer reviewed journal articles
- Peer reviewed conference proceedings
- Books and textbooks
- Courseware, learning objects, simulations, visualizations
- Curated collections
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## This study is limited to peer-reviewed journals

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- Undergraduate science education including science literacy
- One author at a Canadian institution
- 2000 - 2010



## Several Questions

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- Where is the body of literature?
- What types of scholarship are represented?
- What are the trends over time?
- What types of collaborations are common?
- What are the funding sources?

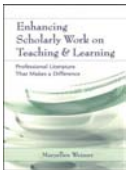



## *Enhancing Scholarly Work on Teaching and Learning: Professional literature that makes a difference.*

Maryellen Weimer, 2006


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- Wisdom of Practice scholarship
- Research scholarship

## Wisdom of Practice: Personal Accounts of Change

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The Evolution and Refinement of a Chemical Biology Training Program: A Canadian Perspective  
D. Scott Bekka<sup>a</sup>  
Department of Chemistry, McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal H3A 2K4, Quebec, Canada

<sup>a</sup>In April 2005, the McGill University chemistry department completely reorganized its graduate education curriculum by phasing out the traditional distinction of organic, inorganic, physical, and analytical chemistries. They were replaced only by a single interest. In a parallel manner, the methods of experimental chemistry have evolved over the past 50 or so years every reason to believe that a similar fate awaits contemporary attempts to define chemical biology in an

www.arschembiol.org

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## Wisdom of Practice: Recommended Practices

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### Discussion Forum

#### The Power of Interactive Teaching


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From the <sup>1</sup>Life and Health Sciences Research Institute, School of Health Sciences, University of Minho, Guimarães Campus, Braga 4710-057, Portugal; <sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Bachelor of Health Sciences (BCHS) Programme, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

The teaching of the Molecular Life Sciences in most Universities still remains teacher-centered [1–3]. Instructors impart knowledge (terms, facts, concepts) in a didactic fashion and then complement these with “laboratory” or exercises to provide practice opportunities and develop skills. In such environments, students play predominantly passive roles [3, 4]. However, results from science education research show that by getting their students actively engaged, they may do more for student learning [5–8]. This suggests that, even though replacing one’s way of teaching is not easy, faculty members should move progressively toward the application of more interactive teaching practices.

work” is difficult since little if any reliable empirical evidence is available for most. Providing an extensive list may in fact have the opposite impact on teachers’ willingness to change, by creating more insecurity and thus inducing greater resistance to the idea of leaving the lecture.

In this discussion forum, we argue that, rather than focus successively on choosing ONE particular method, faculty members should be concerned with providing more opportunities for interactive teaching and never to ignore the specific context in which they teach. For pedagogical reasons, we will assume that an effective



## Wisdom of Practice: Recommended Content

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### In the Laboratory

#### Class Projects in Physical Organic Chemistry: The Hydrolysis of Aspirin

**W**

**Peter S. Morris**  
Department of Chemistry, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8W 2Y6, pmorris@uvic.ca

The hydrolysis of aspirin is studied in a third-year organic chemistry course (Chemistry 337, Biorganic Chemistry) at the University of Victoria. The topic is studied in the lecture and laboratory as a means of understanding catalysis and how a change in pH can affect reaction rates and the mechanism of hydrolysis. The exercise presented provides a hands-on demonstration of the hydrolysis of aspirin. The students are able to see the correlation between their results obtained in the laboratory and the mechanisms discussed in the lecture. This correlation leads to a greater understanding of the mechanisms of catalysis and the utility of the pH-rate profiles for determining these mechanisms.


The hydrolysis of aspirin was studied in detail by L. J. Edwards in 1956 [1]. Others have studied the hydrolysis of salicylates and similar compounds [2]; however, this experiment is based on Edwards’ work. Several experiments have been described in this journal on analysis and hydrolysis [3].

enter) is already presented in the rate-limiting (slow) step of the reaction. Any undissociated acid (if present) does not appear in the rate-limiting step. Specific base catalysis is similar in that the base is hydroxide (HO<sup>-</sup>) and the substrate is attacked by hydroxide in the rate-limiting step of the reaction. There are no other bases (such as the conjugate base of an acid) in the rate-limiting step. The spontaneous process shows water acting as the nucleophile attacking a neutral substrate. Each of these processes occurs independently of the others and each makes a contribution to the observed rate constant, as shown in eq 1.

$$k_{obs} = k_0 + k_1[H^+] + k_{OH}[OH^-] \quad (1)$$

where  $k_0$ ,  $k_1$ , and  $k_{OH}$  are the rate constants for the spontaneous process, the specific acid catalyzed process, and the specific base catalyzed process, respectively.

870 Journal of Chemical Education • Vol. 81 No. 6 June 2004 • www.JCE.DivCHED.org



## Wisdom of Practice: Personal Narrative

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**AT ISSUE**

### THOSE WHO WILL NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY...

By Greg Wilson

ATTENDED A WORKSHOP ON COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION LAST SEPTEMBER THAT LEFT ME FEELING PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OUR DISCIPLINE’S PROSPECTS. THE ATTENDEES THEMSELVES WERE EVERYTHING ONE COULD HOPE FOR: INTELLIGENT, INVENTIVE, AND PASSIONATE PRACTITIONERS OF THEIR CRAFT, EAGER TO SHAPE A NEW GENERATION OF scientists. But their disregard for both the lessons of history and the issues that truly matter to most working scientists in our increasingly low-difficulty things will actually be in 10 years’ time.

The first sign of trouble came when a distinguished British academic stood up to give the opening lecture. He described how simulation and large-scale data analysis could “transforming science” under point 11 (“transforming intellectual processes”).

To all in favor of formalization, but there’s a lot more so the craft of building software, scientific or otherwise, and so there’s a lot more to building a role-observer than Marshall’s experiment. Most computer science departments don’t even teach this craft to their own students, partly

COMPUTING IN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



## Research: Quantitative Investigations

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CHI – Life Sciences Education  
Vol. 5, 145–150, Summer 2008

### Article

#### Implementing Concept-based Learning in a Large Undergraduate Classroom

**David Morse<sup>a</sup> and France Jutras<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale, Département de Sciences Biologiques, Université de Montréal, Québec, H3X 2B2, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Département de Philosophie, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec, J1K 2R1, Canada  
Submitted September 17, 2007; Revised February 4, 2008; Accepted February 12, 2008  
Revising Editor: John Singh

An experiment explicitly introducing learning strategies to a large, first-year undergraduate cell biology course was undertaken to see whether awareness and use of strategies had a measurable impact on student performance. The construction of concept maps was selected as the strategy to be introduced because of an inherent coherence with a course structured by concepts. Data were collected over three different semesters of an introductory cell biology course, all teaching similar course material with the same professor and all evaluated using similar examinations. The first group, used as a control, did not construct concept maps, the second group constructed individual concept maps, and the third group first constructed individual maps then validated



## Research: Qualitative Studies

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Sci & Educ (2011) 20:159–172  
DOI 10.1007/s11191-010-9296-z

### Enhancing Students’ Conceptual Understanding by Engaging Science Text with Reflective Writing as a Hermeneutical Circle

**Cebus S. Kuhn**

Published online: 3 September 2010  
© Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2010

**Abstract** Students can have great difficulty making scientific texts and trying to cope with the professor in the classroom. Part of the reason for students’ difficulties is that for a student making a science gateway course the language, ontology and epistemology of science are alien to a foreign culture. There is thus an analogy between such a student and an anthropologist spending time among a native group in some remote part of the globe. This brings us naturally to the subject of hermeneutics. It is through language that we attempt to understand an alien culture. The hermeneutical circle involves the interplay



## Research: Descriptive

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International Journal of Mathematical Education in  
Science and Technology, Vol. 40, No. 2, 15 March 2009, 173–181


Taylor & Francis  
Taylor & Francis Group

### Mathematics textbooks and their potential role in supporting misconceptions

**Ann Kajander<sup>a</sup> and Miroslav Lovric<sup>b\*</sup>**  
<sup>a</sup>Faculty of Education, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7B 5E1, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Department of Mathematics and Statistics,  
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8, Canada


(Received 28 March 2007)

As a fundamental resource, textbooks shape the way we teach and learn mathematics. Based on examination of secondary school and university textbooks, we describe to what extent, and how, the presentation of mathematics material – in our case study, the concept of the line tangent to the graph of a function – could contribute to creation and strengthening of students’ misconceptions. Our findings, roughly classified in several categories, raise awareness of non-obvious problems that need to be addressed when teaching



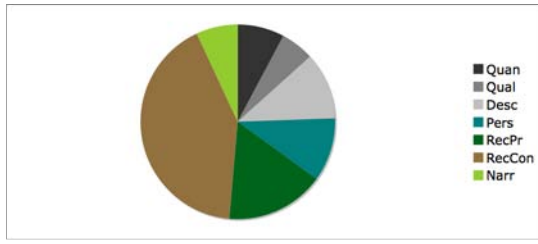

### Majority of 350 papers is

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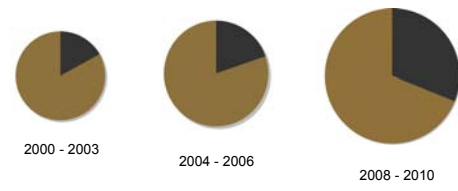
### Majority of literature is Recommended Content

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### Increasing proportion of research scholarship

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2000 - 2003      2004 - 2006      2008 - 2010



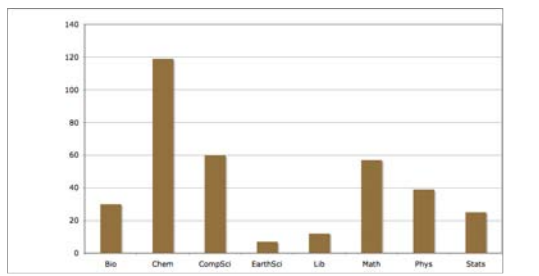

### Which disciplines . . . . ?

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### Lots of Chemistry!


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### Information Literacy

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- Few articles
- Wisdom-of-Practice Scholarship
- Themes:
  - Relevant student assignment
  - Curriculum integration
  - Faculty-librarian collaboration



## Relevant student assignments

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**[JEP]**  
the journal of electronic publishing

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**Electronic Publishing as a Course Context for a Capstone Project on Protein Design**

John F. Dawson

Volume 10, Issue 2, Fall 2007  
 DOI: 10.1080/15393100701600100  
 Permalink: [http://hdl.handle.net/10125/10033/10010\\_004](http://hdl.handle.net/10125/10033/10010_004)



## Curriculum integration

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Journal of Library Administration, 50:375-396, 2010  
 Copyright © P. A. Pritchard  
 ISSN: 0193-0826 print / 1540-3564 online  
 DOI: 10.1080/01930821003667054

**Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group

**The Embedded Science Librarian: Partner in Curriculum Design and Delivery**

PEGGY A. PRITCHARD  
*University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada*

**ABSTRACT.** *Information literacy is essential for success in undergraduate science programs, but teaching faculty are generally ill-prepared or unwilling to provide intentional support in their courses. Librarians are uniquely qualified to help. In this article, the author presents one example of a faculty-librarian collabora-*




## Faculty-librarian collaboration

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**Science & Technology Libraries**  
 Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wstl20>

**Integrating Customized Information into Science and Health Science Curricula**


Joan L. Leishman MLS, BA<sup>a</sup>  
<sup>a</sup> Gerstein Science Information Centre, 9 King's College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A5



## Information Literacy

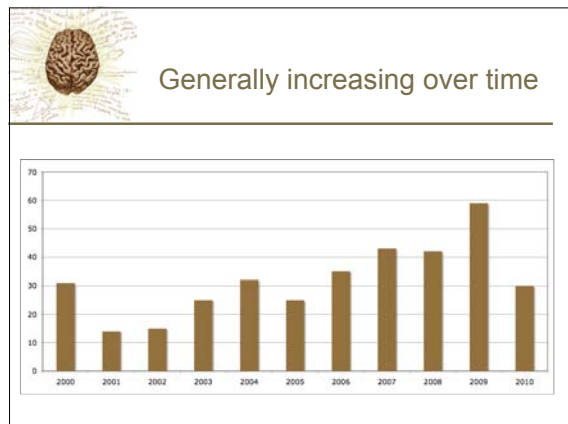
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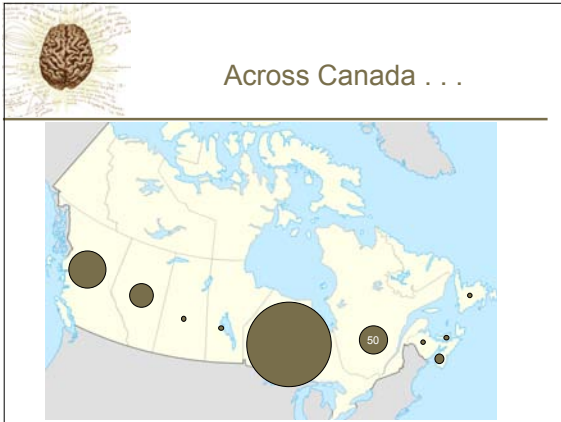
- Relevant student assignments
- Curriculum integration
- Faculty-librarian collaboration



## Changing over time . . . .?

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- Over 125 sources, mostly disciplinary education journals
- *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education*
  - *Advances in Physiology Education*
  - *CBE Life Sciences Education*
  - *Journal of Chemical Education*
  - *Chemical Educator*
  - *Chemistry Education Research and Practice*
  - *SIGCSE Bulletin (Comp Sci.)*
  - *IEEE Transactions on Education*
  - *Journal of Geoscience Education*
  - *Reference Services Review*
  - *International Journal of Mathematics Education*
  - *Alberta Science Education Journal*
  - *Canadian Journal of Physics*
  - *Physics Education*
  - *Journal of Statistics Education*
  - *Teaching Statistics*

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- Next step to engage with you
- *Complete database of journal articles*
  - *Expand evidence to include peer-reviewed conference proceedings, books, courseware, on-line resources etc.*