AME Faculty Presentations: Improved Research through Mediated Communication Tools in a Transdisciplinary Community of Practice

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In a transdisciplinary arts, media, and engineering program at a large public American university, an observed lack of community resources for the exchange of materials has inhibited the "cross-pollination" of ideas across the program's research and application area framework. A web-based media repository was developed as a potential platform for improving collaborative work and learning amongst the faculty and students within the program. This case study focuses on the research and recruitment materials created by the eleven faculty members of the program over the course of an academic year, measuring motivation, presentation quality, and ease of use. Additionally faculty use of the new centralized media repository will be individually tracked, analyzed and compared. The purpose of this study is to improve the design of the media repository, leading to enhanced communication amongst faculty – creating more holistic research presentations that better represent the unique transdisciplinary nature of the program.