

# KD Module 5: Teacher Professional Development

## Unit 3: Life Long Learning III



### Objectives:

In-service teachers use search engines, online databases and email to find people and resources for collaborative projects (KD.4.g).



**Duration:** Total of 4 notional hours – 30 minute tutorial, 3 hours self-study (at a computer) and another 30-minute tutorial.



### A] Tutorial (30 minutes)

#### Notes to Facilitator

Introduce participants to the concept of using search engines, online databases and email to find people and resources for collaborative projects.

A teacher's responsibilities are not only restricted to the classroom. Teaching involves a lot of time spent on planning lessons, creating resources and assessing students' work. Teachers learning and working together to achieve common goals can make teaching easier by reducing time spent on planning and creating resources.

"In collaborative working environments, teachers have the potential to create the collective capacity for initiating and sustaining ongoing improvement in their professional practice so each student they serve can receive the highest quality of education possible."<sup>1</sup>

#### Activity:

1. In groups of 2 to 3, discuss the merits of teacher collaboration and identify several avenues that teachers could explore in order to participate in collaborative projects.
2. Share your ideas with the entire class in a tutor-led discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> *Learning From Collaboration: The Role of Teacher Qualities*. Available online at <http://gsueds2007.pbworks.com/f/teacher+qualities+and+collaboration.pdf>.



## B] Self-Study (3 hours)

For this self-study exercise, you will require access to an Internet-connected computer with high-speed connectivity. You will be required to conduct Internet searches related to a project for your subject and engage in an online collaborative project.

### Activity:

1. Conduct an Internet search and identify 5 websites dedicated to supporting online collaborative projects related to your specific subject/course. The following websites have been provided as a starting point to assist you:
  - GlobalSchoolnet.org: <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/>
  - Teachers Connecting: <http://teachersconnecting.com/>
  - Collaborate for Change: <http://collaborateforchange.com/2011/05/23/teachers-get-into-global-collaborative-projects-today/>
  - Teacher Tap: <http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic1.htm>
  - Website: 21st Century Schools: [http://www.21stcenturyschools.com/Global\\_Collaborative\\_Projects.htm#Start%20Your%20Own%20Collaborative%20Project](http://www.21stcenturyschools.com/Global_Collaborative_Projects.htm#Start%20Your%20Own%20Collaborative%20Project).
2. Next, from the 5 collaborative projects you have identified, select one and sign up to join. Spend a minimum of 2 hours over the course of the next week engaging in the project.
3. In a Word Processor document, compile a summary description of the project you participated in and reflect on your experience and the challenges you encountered during this period. E-mail this document as an attachment to your lecturer.



## C] Tutorial (30 minutes)

### Notes to Facilitator

For this session, participants will reflect on their collaborative project experiences with their group members and the entire class.

### Activity:

In this session, you will reflect on your collaborative project experiences from the self-study activity, with the entire class.

1. In groups of 2 to 3, refer to your 'Reflections' document describing your collaborative project experience that you created during your self-study exercise, and then discuss and share your experiences with your group members. Remember to share any challenges and difficulties you may have encountered during this time.
2. Next, discuss the following:

- To what extent do you believe collaboration might improve teaching methods and the ability for a teacher to teach subject content?
  - In what ways might collaboration benefit a teacher in general?
3. Share your thoughts with the entire class in a tutor-led discussion.



### Resources Used in this Lesson Unit

*Learning From Collaboration: The Role of Teacher Qualities.* (2006). Available online at <http://gsueds2007.pbworks.com/f/teacher+qualities+and+collaboration.pdf>. (Copyright.)

Website: GlobalSchoolnet.org: <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/>.

Website: Teachers Connecting: <http://teachersconnecting.com/>.

Website: Collaborate for Change: <http://collaborateforchange.com/2011/05/23/teachers-get-into-global-collaborative-projects-today/>.

Website: Teacher Tap: <http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic1.htm>.

Website: 21st Century Schools:  
[http://www.21stcenturyschools.com/Global\\_Collaborative\\_Projects.htm#Start%20Your%20Own%20Collaborative%20Project](http://www.21stcenturyschools.com/Global_Collaborative_Projects.htm#Start%20Your%20Own%20Collaborative%20Project).

*A teachers' guide to collaborative projects.* Available online from MyEurope Website:  
<http://www.xplora.org/ww/en/pub/myeurope/home/schools/inside/guide.htm>. (Copyright.)