

# Faculty respond: How do you use online teaching materials?

(Original title: What do faculty need from digital libraries and what's stopping them?)

Alan Wolf<sup>1</sup>, Ellen Iverson<sup>2</sup>, Flora McMartin<sup>3</sup>, Cathy Manduca<sup>2</sup>, and Glenda Morgan<sup>4</sup>

## Study Methodology

We completed five focus groups at a range of higher education institutions. Participants included STEM faculty from a variety of disciplines. While this is just the first phase of the research we are beginning to see patterns of motivation to use materials, the kinds of materials sought, and how faculty filter these materials. We are also gathering descriptions of barriers faculty encounter in using online resources.

We are drawn to the question of how faculty work practice affects use of online learning materials and how digital libraries can align their services with this practice. Our preliminary knowledge about work practices of faculty from a variety of institutional types is summarized in the center panel of this poster.

## Future plans

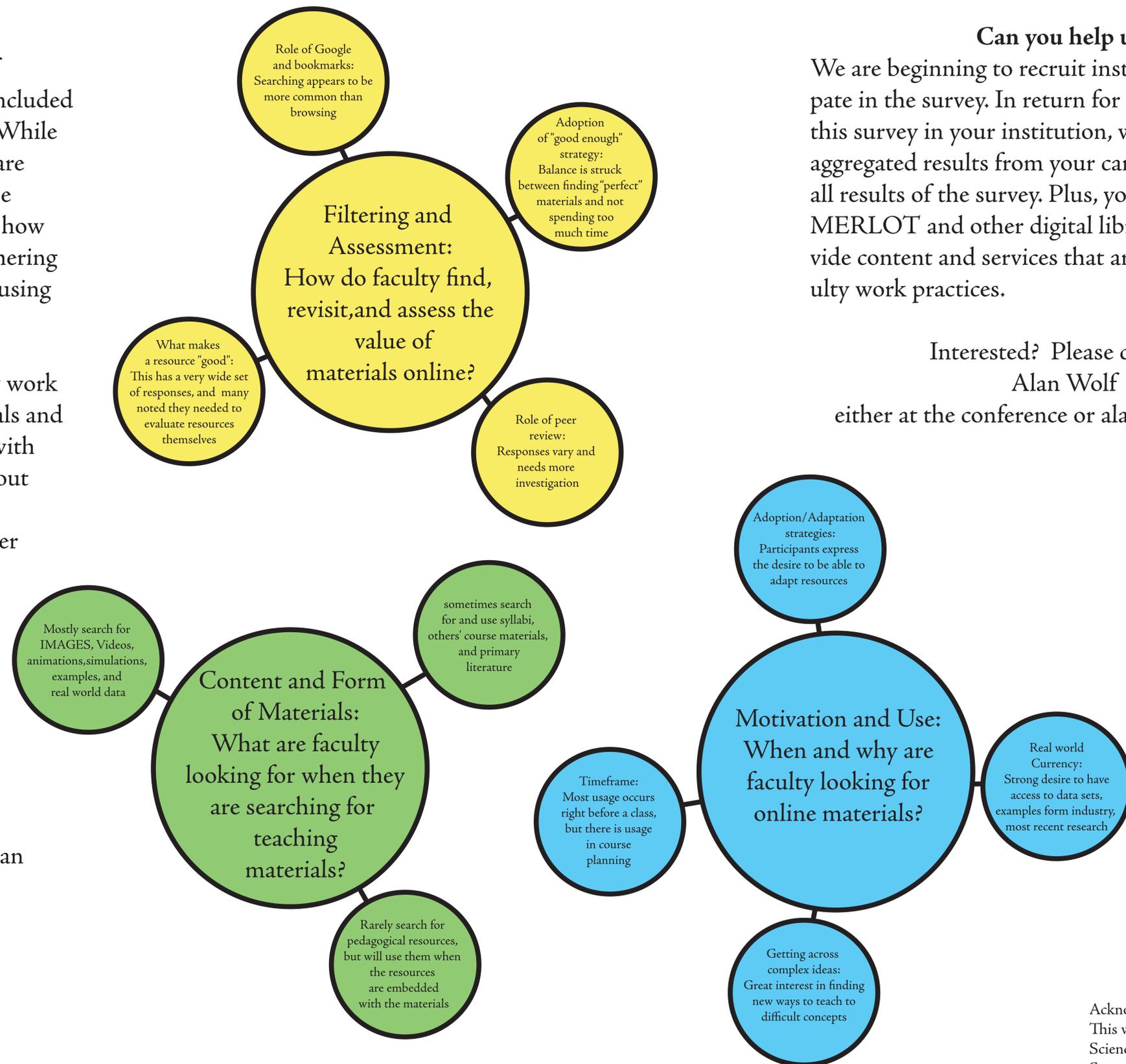
From the responses to these and future focus groups we are designing a survey. The survey will be administered nationally. We hope to better understand more about work practice and the services that can be provided by content providers like digital libraries to educators. And, you can help.

1 Center for Biology Education and Academic Technology,  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

2 Science Education Resource Center, Carleton College

3 MERLOT

4 Office of the Chancellor, California State University



## Can you help us?

We are beginning to recruit institutions to participate in the survey. In return for helping us deliver this survey in your institution, we will share the aggregated results from your campus and the overall results of the survey. Plus, you will be helping MERLOT and other digital library projects provide content and services that are aligned with faculty work practices.

Interested? Please contact:

Alan Wolf

either at the conference or [alanwolf@wisc.edu](mailto:alanwolf@wisc.edu)

Acknowledgement:  
This work is supported by the National Science Foundation (DUE-0435398).  
Statements made do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.