



**Institute for Excellence in  
Teaching and Learning**

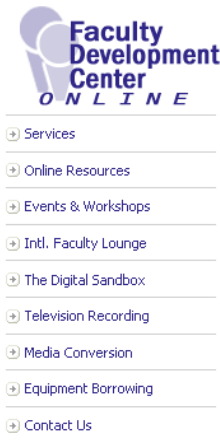
**Faculty Development Center**



# What is the Faculty Development Center Online?

The Faculty Development Center Online is more than just a web page for the FDC. It is a collection of on-line services available through the Connections Portal for faculty that teach at Webster throughout the world. FDC Online is where faculty can go to schedule appointments with FDC staff, reserve equipment and facilities, explore services available to them, and more.

One major part of the FDC Online is the Faculty Forum. The Faculty Forum is a place where faculty and staff can share and discuss teaching experiences, ideas, concerns, and more. This information is presented in the form of articles categorized by topic that are indexed and archived for easy searching.



## Is there a place for Wikipedia in Academe?

February 14th, 2007

Wikipedia, the collaborative, anonymously edited online encyclopedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>) poses unique challenges in university classrooms. One institution (Middlebury College) has taken the extreme step to ban the use of

Wikipedia as a cited source (*Chronicle of Higher Education Daily Report*, Feb. 1, 2007). While Webster University does not have an official policy on Wikipedia, faculty members can certainly expect students to use scholarly sources in their research. Is Wikipedia all bad, though? In "Wikipedia and the Challenge of Read/Write Culture" (*Library Issues: Briefings for Faculty and Administrators*, Jan. 2007), the author outlines several similarities between Wikipedia and scholarly communication, e.g., neither is based on economics; both are resistant to centralized control; both change over time and those changes can be traced through retained histories (in Wikipedia) and citation networks (in scholarly communication); and both are based on a belief that the "truth will out" through the collective work of peers. How can faculty use this popular tool to teach important lessons about scholarly research and about social networking tools? Historian Roy Rosenzweig suggests a number of ways in this article. See "So, What the Heck Do We Do?" in <http://www.libraryissues.com.library3.webster.edu/sub/L1270003.asp>.

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Faculty Forum

**What is the Faculty Forum?**

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The FDC Online is a channel in the Connections Portal.

## Subjects discussed in the Faculty Forum :

### Teaching and Learning

- Teaching and Learning resources from the Faculty Development Center
- Title III Teaching Transformation Fellowships

### Research

- Best Practices for creating research assignments
- Library databases and resources
- Faculty research support

### Professional Development

- Using effective design in developing classroom presentations
- Teaching Online at Webster: upcoming workshops
- Methods for monitoring the effectiveness of your teaching

### Instructional Technology

- Step by step guides for using web-based technologies
- Unique technology resources as applied to teaching, learning, and scholarship
- How to match and apply technology to teaching strategies
- Updates about software upgrades and changes
- Notices of opportunities to take advantage of educational discounts



# Instructional Support Consultations

## Website Creation

The FDC offers assistance in helping faculty create an online “presence” by guiding faculty through the concept, planning, design and development stages needed to meet their individual goals.

## Software Tutorial

One-on-one lessons are available to help faculty learn to use any software that is available in the Faculty Development Center. This includes things as simple as navigating and using the operating system (Windows, Mac OS X), or more advanced applications such as editing videos or making complex Powerpoint presentations.

## Learning Object Creation

The Faculty Development Center can assist faculty in the design and development of reusable, web-based interactive blocks of e-learning designed to explain a stand-alone learning objective. This includes object packaging of video, audio, mathematical markup, interactive scenarios, and more.

## Video Production & Audio Production

Video Production includes the capturing, editing, and final output of most video formats. While adhering to the Webster Fair Use guidelines, the Faculty Development Center can provide assistance to meet the needs of faculty, including recording live audio and converting it into multiple formats, helping faculty use the equipment available in the FDC to add audio to a Powerpoint presentation or creating a pod cast for a web page, and more.

## Classroom Activity Design

The FDC will gladly work with faculty to adopt or design non-technical classroom activities that can be used to foster active learning.

## Grant and Fellowship Support

The FDC is available to assist faculty in the process of defining specific teaching and learning interventions including details on modern technologies and practices for grant proposals. Furthermore, the center can play an active role in helping faculty meet the requirements of awards granted for projects designed to improve teaching and learning.

## Workshops and Presentations

Workshops and presentations are routinely offered by the Faculty Development Center to provide instructors with an introduction to the various tools, techniques, and practices relevant to higher education teaching and scholarship.



## Other Services

### Computer Workstations

The Faculty Development Center has four (two Mac, two PC) state-of-art computer stations with the latest software and peripherals to assist in the creation of teaching materials. These stations are available to faculty any time the Emerson Library is open, and each is connected to a color and black and white printer and VHS tape deck for digitizing videos.

### Webpage from Template

A database of web page templates is available to faculty. These templates will simplify the process of going from paper documents to having documents and information easily available online.

### Online Survey

Ad-hoc survey creation enables faculty to collect valuable information with a simple web-based survey creator and collector. This tool fulfills the need for timely and accurate return of data for classroom data collecting, research, and simple submission forms.

### Media Recording

The Faculty Development Center will gladly record both television and radio programming for use in the classroom so long as recording adheres to Webster's Fair Use Guidelines. These recordings can be provided to instructors on CD or DVD for use in the classroom.

### Media Conversion

Have a video from Japan that won't play in a classroom VCR? The Faculty Development Center has equipment that can help fix this and almost any video or audio conversion problem faculty might come across.

### Print and Electronic Resources

Emerson Library's Reference Department works closely with the FDC and can assist in the identification of print and electronic resources to support faculty in meeting their teaching goals.

### Sandbox stations

In addition to the computer workstations available to faculty at any time, the FDC also offers a "sandbox" Mac and PC. The sandbox is ideal for evaluating software that would otherwise clutter a computer. The sandbox stations are always in a state that their hard drives can be erased. So if you are trying to determine which program does what you want, or are unsure if something is "bad" for your computer, feel free to test it on the sandbox first.

### Video Conferencing

Utilizing the latest in video conferencing hardware and software, the FDC can provide faculty with a venue to communicate and collaborate over digital distance. The International Faculty Lounge, equipped with a 42" large-screen display, video camera, microphone, and software (including Marratech and Skype) enables ad-hoc training, meetings, and collaborations.

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