# Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.



Oregon State University

# Dr. John Fritz on Researching Course Design and Analytics [34:05]

Research in Action - Episode 72

## Podcast and Episode Information

"Research in Action" is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Dr. John Fritz, an Associate Vice President for Instructional Technology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Working within UMBC's Division of Information Technology, John is responsible for UMBC's focused efforts in teaching, learning and technology, including learning analytics. He is also responsible for tier 1 (basic) user support including knowledge management. Previously, John served as UMBC's Director of News & Online Information, and has more than 10 years' experience as a public information officer, writer and editor in three University of Maryland campuses. John holds a Ph.D in Language, Literacy and Culture from UMBC, a Master's degree in English (with an emphasis in rhetoric and composition) from the University of Maryland, College Park, a bachelor's degree in English and religion from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, and certificates in New Media Publishing from the University of Baltimore and Instructional Systems Design from UMBC.

*Segment One* [00:00-11:59] - In this segment, John shares about some of his research on Learning Management Systems (LMSs)

*Segment Two* [12:00-21:44] - In this segment, John discusses the rise in adaptive and personalized learning platforms and what this means for research on student learning

*Segment Three* [21:45-34:05]: In this segment, John shares about a new interest area for him: nudge analytics.

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at: http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e72/

## Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Review three ways in which a faculty member might utilize a LMS
- Discuss the difference between LMS analytics and learning analytics
- Illustrate an example of adaptive learning
- Describe the term "choice architecture"

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- What does Dr. Fritz explain are the three broad ways in which faculty use the LMS?
- According to Dr. Fritz, what area in the LMS has the "most potential"?
- What does Dr. Fritz describe are some of the differences between LMS analytics and learning analytics?
- What does Dr. Fritz share about some of the research behind the correlation of student activity level in a LMS and grades?
- What is adapted and personalized learning?
- What does Dr. Fritz share about Barry Zimmerman's findings regarding the two things that are important for students to take responsibility for in their learning?
- What is an example of adaptive learning?
- What appear to be some of the challenges for implementing adaptive learning into courses?
- How does Dr. Fritz describe "choice architecture"?
- What is an example of "choice architecture"?

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## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e72/) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e72/) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Dr. John Fritz if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, August 14). *Dr. John Fritz on Researching Course Design and Analytics* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e72/

## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

"Research in Action" (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

"Research in Action" is hosted by Dr. Katie Linder, research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view show notes and transcripts for each episode, explore our episode guide, learn more about how to contact us, or suggest a future guest or topic.

You may subscribe to the "Research in Action" RSS feed or access the podcast via iTunes, Soundcloud or Stitcher. "Research in Action" is also listed on MERLOT.

The "Research in Action" podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

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