Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of a Virtual World Computer Environment for International Distance Education: Lessons from a Pilot Project using Second Life

Version:2 Date:16 December 2013

Reviewer: Allen D Andrade

Reviewer’s report:

I enjoyed reading this paper. Well written. My main comment lies in the result section which is brief. The authors have a wealth of experience from conducting this event. Technical challenges are inevitable, and an elaboration of difficulties encountered, and a mention on how they were solved by the moderator, will add to strength of the paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions.

Results.

Results section should include more detail on the technical difficulties experienced by participants during the VW session, and how the moderator(s), or participant solved these technical problems during the VW session. This will help future researchers, if they attempt to replicate the program. Authors should make clear that 2/11 disagreed, 3/11 agreed and 6 remained neutral; that learning in the virtual world is an improvement over learning in a face-to-face setting in the results section, and point this out in the conclusion. This shows that some learners still have some skepticism about SL training and is worthwhile exploring in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

I could not find figure labels

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests