

The MERLOT Africa Network (MAN): **Networked Partnerships for Education, Training and Development**

MAN is an outreach Program of the MERLOT Organization. MAN is a Network of African and US institutions affiliated with the MERLOT organization. The MAN Community is sustained a An Advisory Board and a Digital Scholars Program.

I. The MAN Mission

Facilitate Communities of eLearning expertise and capacity building for Open Education, Scholarship, and Development in Africa - Create a Global Digital Scholars Network for Action Research on the use of Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching.

MAN - Strategic Objectives

- (1) Build a strong networked partnerships between African, US educational institutions and global eLearning providers that will result in joint education, research and development programs in Sub-Saharan
- (2) Extend the MERLOT Community of Practice to immediately serve the goals of providing access and quality eLearning resources and communities of eLearning expertise in Africa.
- (3) Build African expertise in the successful use and development of Open Education Resources (OER) and Open Access (OA) to support scalable eLearning curricula and scholarship.
- (4) Conduct educational research to guide the effective and sustainable pedagogical integration of OER and OA in learning design and research.
- (5) Organize expert meetings for sharing best practices, and social networking to improve the productivity and leadership of collaborative projects among members.
- (6). Create a Global Digital Scholars Network for Action Research on the use of Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching.



http://man.merlot.org

II. The MAN Digital Scholars

Action Research on the Use of Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT)

The MAN Digital Scholars (DS) Program is a vibrant community of faculty and graduate students with common action research interests in multicultural research in the field of adoption and integration of Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT). The MAN DSs serve as mentors, innovators, project leaders, and liaisons communicating the interests and innovations of educators in the area of education technology to the larger MAN community. MAN Digital Scholars will be faculty and graduate student with discipline expertise in education and health for development. Digital Scholars are expected to implicate Undergraduate Students in their respective institutions.



MAN Digital Scholars

III. Joining MAN

1; **Joining MAN** is a simple three-step process including (1) first joining the MERLOT organization as individual member, (2) filling out and submitting an institutional membership survey and, (3) finally facilitating the signing of a memorandum of Understanding with your organization.

More: http://man.merlot.org/join/index.html

- **2. Becoming A MAN Scholars –** To become a Scholar you must fill and submit a Digital Scholar Expression of Interest Application (DS-EIA) available. We will review the Application and get back to you for eligibility.
- **3. Institutional Affiliation & Network Partnership** Is your institution interested in signing a Partnership agreement with MAN and MERLOT? If yes, fill out the MAN Partnership form available online. We will review the Application and get back to you for eligibility. http://man.merlot.org/join/index.html

IV. The MAN Services



Network Partnerships

MAN facilitates various networked partnerships between network members that can lead to collaborative projects for Development and innovations in the best practices for using OER and OA as eLearning solutions. Partners meet twice annually using virtual media.

MAN is affiliated with the International Symposium for Emerging Technologies for Online Learning hosted by the Sloan-C Foundation and MERLOT

(http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2013/et4online/welcome) and the E-Learning/E-Sante For Africa (ELES4A) Conference (http://eles-2012.com/index.php/en/) and the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (http://jolt.merlot.org/). We promote exemplary practices and Action Research (http://elixr.merlot.org/)

Joining MERLOT/MAN: Benefits

Learn More: http://man.merlot.org/join/index.html

OER Services and Training

- MAN leverages MERLOT's active community of practice with over 115,449 members worldwide (Stat. 9.4.2013).
- The MERLOT.org website provides free access to over 41,000 eLearning resources covering a full range of academic and professional disciplines.
- MERLOT.org's free member services also enable its members to compose and deliver online educational programs.
- MAN delivers Faculty Development Certificates and Badges. These are Training Webinars on best practices and models of integration of multimedia educational resources for Learning and Online Teaching in then the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines – and-tools for designing educational resources for eLearning.

Sister Campuses Partnerships

We promote and broker the creation of Sister Campuses between African and US Universities affiliated with MERLOT and Partner organizations to develop project-based partnerships that are strategic.

These project-based partnerships promote have an ultimate goal of promoting sustainable international development and capacity building at the partner institutions. Currently more than 15 African Higher Education Institutions are MAN partners.

v. The MAN Advisory

Professor Moustapha Diack (Southern University System in LA - MAN Director & MERLOT Faculty Development Review Board), Dr. Laura Franklin (Northern Virginia Community College & MERLOT World Languages; Dr. Solomon Negash (Kennesaw State University – GA, USA and University of Ethiopia- Eastern Africa); Professor N'Bayang Niang Niane (Faculty of Medicine, University Cheikh Anta Diop – UCAD, Senegal – West Africa) Dr. Gerry Hanley, MERLOT CEO and MERLOT/ California State University, Office of the Chancellor.