Developmental Research: An Overview

Dr. Tim Ellis
School of Computer & Information Sciences
Nova Southeastern University

First Assignment

Problem Statement
- Background
  - What is the problem being addressed
  - Supported by appropriate literature
- Significance
  - Why is the issue being addressed a problem
  - Supported by appropriate literature

Example Problem
- A PhD is necessary for advancement and, in many cases job retention, in academic
- Many older professionals in academic settings have difficulty participating in doctoral programs

Purpose of the Study
- Specify the product you propose to develop to address the problem
- Indicate how the product will resolve the problem
- Supported by appropriate literature

Example
- Develop a catalog of PhD programs that can be successfully completed by an older professional
Research Question(s)

- How will your product or solution address the problem
- Specific questions to be answered by
  - The product you develop, or
  - The development process

Example

- What schools offer degree programs leading to PhD in computer technology
- What are the prerequisites for acceptance into a PhD program
- What are the participation requirements
- What are the completion requirements
- What are the associated costs
  - Financial
  - Time

Justification

- Why would the approach you plan solve the problem
- Anchors Research Questions to Problem Statement
- Supported by appropriate literature

Second Assignment

Criteria Establishment

- Define a successful product
- List of product objectives
- Sources
  - Similar products
  - Literature
  - Surveys

Example

- Based upon a meeting with several colleagues in a similar life situation (Expert Panel), you determine the program must:
  - Cost no more than $10,000 per year
  - Not require full-time commitment
  - Be accredited by a regional accrediting association
  - Offer a time- and place-independent learning environment
Criteria Validation
- Verify the value of the criteria
- Essential questions:
  - If the product meets all criteria will it indeed be a worthwhile product
  - Will meeting the criteria actually resolve the problem being addressed
- Sources include
  - Literature
  - Focus group or expert panel

Example
- You ask the President, VP for Academic Affairs, Dean of Continuing Education Division, and Associate Dean of the College at your current employer (Expert Panel) if they would accept a PhD degree earned at an institution that met the criteria.

Product Development
- Step-by-step process
- Anchored to criteria
- Entails
  - Developing the product in a usable format
  - Packaging the product in a deliverable format

Example
- Develop a list of all schools that offer PhD programs in computer technology and that meet the criteria
- Criteria:
  - Cost no more than $10,000 per year
  - Not require full-time commitment
  - Be accredited by a regional accrediting association
  - Offer flexibility in time commitment

Third Assignment

Product Evaluation
- Does the product in fact meet the criteria set for it?
- Sources can include
  - Pilot project
  - Summative committee
  - Survey
  - Expert panel
Evaluation Questions

- What was used to test?
- Why was that testing scheme selected?
  - Supported by literature
- What statistical measures were used to evaluate the results of the test?
- What were the results of the test?
  - Changes suggested
  - Changes made
  - Changes not made