

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Instructional Technology



Fall 2025 Newsletter

Jill Stefaniak, SIG Chair

Greetings SIG Instructional Technology Members!

As we approach the end of 2025, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your ongoing engagement and support of our SIG. Your active participation through proposal submissions, thoughtful reviews, and collaboration across our community continues to strengthen the field of instructional design and technology.

We are excited about preparing the AERA 2026 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California! Our program committee is working hard to provide an exciting slate of sessions that highlight innovative research, emerging technologies, and new directions in instructional design and technology. I look forward to seeing many of you share your scholarship and ideas at this vibrant gathering. In early 2026, we will hold elections for SIG-IT leadership positions. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of candidates running for roles that will begin after the 2026 Annual Meeting. Your vote helps shape the future of our SIG, so please take a moment to participate in this process when ballots open. Don't forget! an active AERA membership is required to vote!

As you renew your AERA membership, please also renew your SIG Instructional Technology membership. Your support allows us to fund graduate student travel scholarships, recognize outstanding research, and host meaningful events that foster collaboration and professional growth.

Thank you for being part of our dynamic community and for contributing to the ongoing success of SIG Instructional Technology. I look forward to connecting with you in Los Angeles this April!

Sincerely,

Jill Stefaniak, Ph.D.



SIG IT 2025 Awards

This year, SIG IT will recognize recipients for two awards: Best Paper Award and Best Student Paper Award.

Top-ranked conference proposal submissions to the SIG IT, as established by the peer review process, have been contacted and invited to prepare their full papers for review by an awards committee and the SIG IT Board.

After a thorough review by the awards committee, and final review and confirmation by the SIG IT Board, awardees will be selected and recognized during the AERA 2026 SIG IT Business Meeting during the AERA Conference in Los Angeles, California.

Heather Leary, Ph.D.
SIG IT Awards Chair



SIG IT AERA 2025 Program

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2026 Research Conference on Instructional Design and Technology, taking place this April in Los Angeles, California! This vibrant event will once again bring together leading researchers, practitioners, and educators to explore the evolving landscape of learning, design, and technology. From the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in instructional design to ethical and accessible technology practices, problem-based learning strategies, and immersive learning environments, the 2026 conference promises to spark thought-provoking discussions and highlight innovative research and practices. Featuring 30 paper presentations, 14 posters, 12 roundtable sessions, and 4 virtual presentations, the program offers rich opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge sharing across the instructional technology community.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of our Instructional Technology SIG who dedicated their time and expertise to review the incredible proposals submitted this year. Your commitment to academic rigor and collaboration has been instrumental in curating a rich program that reflects the diverse and evolving landscape of instructional design and technology. Our SIG is looking forward to working with all of you to foster a community that drives meaningful change in education.

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable experience in Los Angeles! We look forward to exchanging ideas, fostering collaborations, and collectively advancing the field as we explore how instructional design can best meet the needs of our learners. We can't wait to see you in April and engage in these vital conversations!

Hengtao Tang, Ph.D.
SIG IT Program Chair

SIG IT Community Building

SIG IT is a diverse and collaborative community connecting members interested in the design and development of instruction and the media technologies that aid in implementing instruction. SIG IT currently has 231 members and \$3,512.99 as of September 2025's financial statement. This year, funds will be used for our AERA SIG Management Fee, 2026 Best Papers certificates, and 2026 graduate students travel scholarships and certificates.

As you renew your AERA membership and register for the AERA 2026 conference, please do remember to support this SIG-IT by joining the SIG membership. Your membership funds support our awards and our events throughout the year and at the conference.



This year, we continue to work on building communities in the following ways:

- Fall/Spring Newsletter sharing community updates and SIG IT members' work
- Regular communication via emails about calls for proposals/book chapters, job announcements, and distribution of surveys, exclusively open to members of SIG IT
- Social media on [SIG IT Facebook group](#) and [SIG IT Twitter](#), and SIG LinkedIn.

We truly appreciate SIG IT members' contributions in various forms, which makes spaces of friendship and generous sharing.

Rebecca Clark-Stallkam, PhD

Wei Yan, PhD

SIG IT Secretary/Treasurer

SIG IT Communication Officer

Awards, Grants, and Professional Accomplishments

Mary Rice (Associate Professor of Literacy, University of New Mexico)

- Mary Rice is a team member for the new **\$4 million** NSF-funded National Quantum Virtual Laboratory (NQVL). Her responsibilities are for education/workforce outreach and development.



Salih Mansur (AI Researcher and a Graduate Assistant)

- Presented at the APA Annual Convention on "*AI-Enhanced Digital Literacy: Bridging the Divide for Underserved Adult Learners.*"
- Completed Harvard's Universal Design for Learning: Apply program, MIT Professional Education's Applied Generative AI for Digital Transformation, and Harvard Business School Online's AI Essentials for Business.
- Earned several AI and digital literacy credentials from the University of Pennsylvania GSE, Anthropic,

Google/MIT RAISE, and NJCU, all focused on responsible AI, UDL, and student-centered learning in K–12 and higher education.

What are SIG Instructional Technology Members Reading?

Li, B., Zhang, Z., Lowell, V., Wang, C., & Bonk, C. J. (2025). Development and validation of the PA-SDA Scale: Measuring personal attributes in AI-integrated self-directed language learning. System, 133, 103793.

This study introduces and validates the Personal Attributes for Self-Directed AI Learning (PA-SDA) Scale, a 44-item instrument designed to measure the key personal characteristics of language learners who use Generative AI tools like ChatGPT for self-directed learning (SDL). The core insight is that as AI tools increasingly enable personalized, autonomous learning, there is a critical need for a reliable and validated way to measure learner readiness and approach. This scale fulfills that need by providing a framework to assess how personal attributes influence learning outcomes in AI-augmented environments.

Ülker, Ü. (2026). Analyzing Artificial Intelligence Utilization in Foreign Language Education in Higher Education. In P. Ilic (Ed.), Strengthening Language Education Through ICT Integration: Bridging SDG4 With Digital Innovation (pp. 55-104). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-0801-2.ch003>

The research highlights that the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into higher education foreign language learning is a rapidly growing trend, showing significant promise for personalizing education and enhancing key skills like writing, speaking, and grammar through adaptive feedback systems. While AI supports educational sustainability goals by making learning more engaging and accessible, its successful implementation is challenged by critical issues, including the necessity for teacher professional development, addressing ethical concerns (such as data privacy and academic integrity), and ensuring that AI tools complement the teacher's essential role in providing context-sensitive human interaction.

North, C. (2023). Learning experience design essentials: Designing for users and impact. ATD Press.

The core insight of *Learning Experience Design Essentials* is that effective learning is achieved by blending content with context to drive tangible performance improvements. The book introduces a practical, 10-step LXD process that shifts instructional design's focus from mere knowledge transfer to understanding the learner's perspective ("walking in their shoes") and their real-world performance gaps. It stresses integrating User Experience (UX) and Accessibility principles to create intuitive, engaging, and inclusive experiences that address the learner's behavioral, cognitive, and emotional needs, ultimately leading to measurable business results.

SIG Instructional Technology Members Spotlights

Curtis J. Bonk, Professor,



On August 20, 2025, Curt Bonk gave a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Global Smart Education Conference 2025 at Beijing Normal University. During the conference, Dr. Bonk was a discussant for the student research tracks. And at the closing ceremony he and his research team received a Global Smart Education Research Innovation Prize, for the “Development and Validation of the PA-SDA Scale for AI-Integrated Self-Directed Language Learning,” (Awarded with research team members: Belle Li, Zhu Zhang, and Victoria Lowell of Purdue University and Chaoran Wang of Colby College)

Websites / social media / any platform

Email: cjbonk@iu.edu

Phone: (812) 856-8353

Website: <http://curtbonk.com/>

Salih Mansur

Salih Mansur is an educator with a background in multimedia design, communications, psychology, and instructional technology. He completed his Master of Science in Instructional Technology from Touro University and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in AI Systems, also at Touro. His work centers on helping people understand technology in simple, practical ways, especially adult learners who are developing digital literacy skills. Salih has taught and supported learners across New York City, working with a wide range of adults, including gig workers, delivery drivers, new immigrants, and returning students. His focus is always the same: make learning less intimidating, more visual, and easier to follow. He uses clear steps, simple explanations, and multimedia tools to help learners build confidence with technology. At LaGuardia Community College, he has contributed to student experience and digital literacy initiatives, including mentoring students and presenting work through campus events. His interests include instructional design, digital literacy, learning experience design, and the everyday use of AI tools in education. He approaches these topics through real-life examples and hands-on practice rather than technical theory.

Salih is also involved in community-based educational work and continues to build projects that help people organize their digital lives, improve their skills, and share their stories. His personal website, salihmansur.org, reflects this ongoing work. Above all, Salih sees himself as a learner first. His goal is



to make education simple, accessible, and useful for people at any stage of life.

Websites / social media / any platform <https://www.linkedin.com/in/salihmansur/>

What do you usually do outside of work and research?

I usually explore the city (NYC), read, and work on small creative projects. I enjoy helping people around me with digital tools and everyday tech needs.

Ülkü Ülker (Assistant Professor, Dicle University)

Ülkü Ülker is an Assist. Prof. Dr. in the Department of Instructional Technologies in the Faculty of Education at Dicle University, a public teacher training institution in Türkiye. She has been working in this discipline since 2012. Her Ph.D. is in Educational Sciences, specializing in Computer and Instructional Technologies, from Gazi University in 2021.



Her research interests encompass instructional design and technologies, open and distance education, interaction, motivation, engagement, message design, integration of ICT, scientific research methodologies, adults education and lifelong learning, out-of-school learning. She also engages in emerging fields such as digital transformation, educational sustainability, digital literacy, artificial intelligence. She has actively participated in a range of national science and education projects. In 2023, she led workshops under the TÜBİTAK 4007 Science Land Project and at the Sur Culture Road Festival. Additionally, she served as a speaker for TÜBİTAK Science Talks on “Internet Literacy and Use of Digital Resources”. She has also participated in academic exchange programs in Europe, visiting the University of Lisbon (Portugal) in April 2024, and the University of Szczecin (Poland) in January 2024 with ERASMUS KA131 STA. Since early 2025, she has served as an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Web-Based Learning and Teaching Technologies.

Her scholarly and professional efforts align with the UN's SDG4, aiming to promote inclusive, sustainable, and high-quality education for all.

Websites / social media / any platform

Email: ulku.ulker@dicle.edu.tr

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5452-4227>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/%C3%BCIk%C3%BC-%C3%BCIker-a5a11477/>

Gratitude!

Stay connected with us! Join the conversation on our [SIG IT Facebook Group](#) and follow us on [SIG IT Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Keep an eye out for more details about SIG Instructional Technology presentations at the **AERA 2026** and don't forget to visit the [AERA 2026 website](#) for Annual Meeting updates.

From all of us on the SIG Instructional Technology Board, we wish you a successful end to the semester and a joyful holiday season!

