Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a novel course mapping process that gathers data on how courses are taught and the national standards they support, providing improved design and learning performance.

As part of instructional design and accreditation procedures, universities perform course review and mapping as a means to ensure classes offered meet national guidelines. Previous technologies utilized productivity programs to cut and paste large amounts of data, which would then be provided to an external vendor to import into a mapping program for gap analysis. This was often found difficult for faculty to complete, and resulted in inconsistent data. Thus, a much simpler method that allows for large amounts of data collection in a straightforward manner is needed.

In order to improve the data collection process, USF inventors have created a simple and efficient program for curricular review and mapping. Built using Microsoft SharePoint as the input, this technology is exportable to MS Excel. It allows for the collection of detailed course design information to include teaching methods, assessment methods, learning levels, in-class hours, and out-of-class student workload. With its help a college or university can directly map each course to multiple national education standards.

The technology itself is centered on the concepts of ease-of-use, consistency, and accuracy. Course information and national standards are pre-loaded, creating a point-and-click form that can be accessed from most operating systems and web-browsers. All collected data is easily exported to Microsoft Excel for analysis. The system has additional resources which support working offline, frequently asked questions, and student workload calculations.

ADVANTAGES:
- Improved design and learning performance
- User-friendly
- Pre-loaded data
- Point-and-Click
- Rich guidance to help input decisions

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