

Notes on my Bibliographic Road Trip

You're right about the onset of my search- there wasn't any books that I could find *directly* relating to my topic. It wasn't until later that I started seeing my arguments in a new light. I never wondered why I didn't see my ideas out there. I was pretty sure they were original. What I was struggling with was *how* original. I didn't know where to begin to find works that were overlapping in ideas or pedagogy. Originally I wasn't surprised to see nothing come up in my searches because I didn't know how to make or even define my search query! This was an important revelation for me, because I was making up the words I was lacking in, i.e. L-Sim's, ect. I have since thrown those out and stated using words that I felt most closely resembled my ideas. They were:

1. Toys
2. Play
3. Playgrounds
4. Manipulatives
5. Teaching methodologies
6. Interactive Models
7. Prob-BL, Proj-BL, Goal-BL, etc.
8. Student's Misconceptions
9. Adventure Playgrounds
10. Peer collaboration, peer tutoring, and peer cooperation
11. Etc.

By doing this, I found a wealth of information as it *overlaps* with the ideas I had. I also started appreciating the ideas that others have contributed to this work. I think initially, I was confused about how to present my ideas since I perceived them as being mine (the big picture). I didn't see that my big picture, original or not, was made up of very many small puzzle pieces that have been contributed by others. I was only seeing how I was putting the pieces together and therefore it must be 'my' idea. I think that was one of the best things I learned this semester. It enabled me to see and appreciate the ideas of others before me and give them proper credit. It also make me see my project in a new and exciting light – it showed how it was connected with others and not a stand alone without any support!

I learned this late in the semester, but am I am grateful for it. I feel I have learned more that I have been able to show so far, but hopefully my draft and these assignments I am working on will be reflective of this fact.