

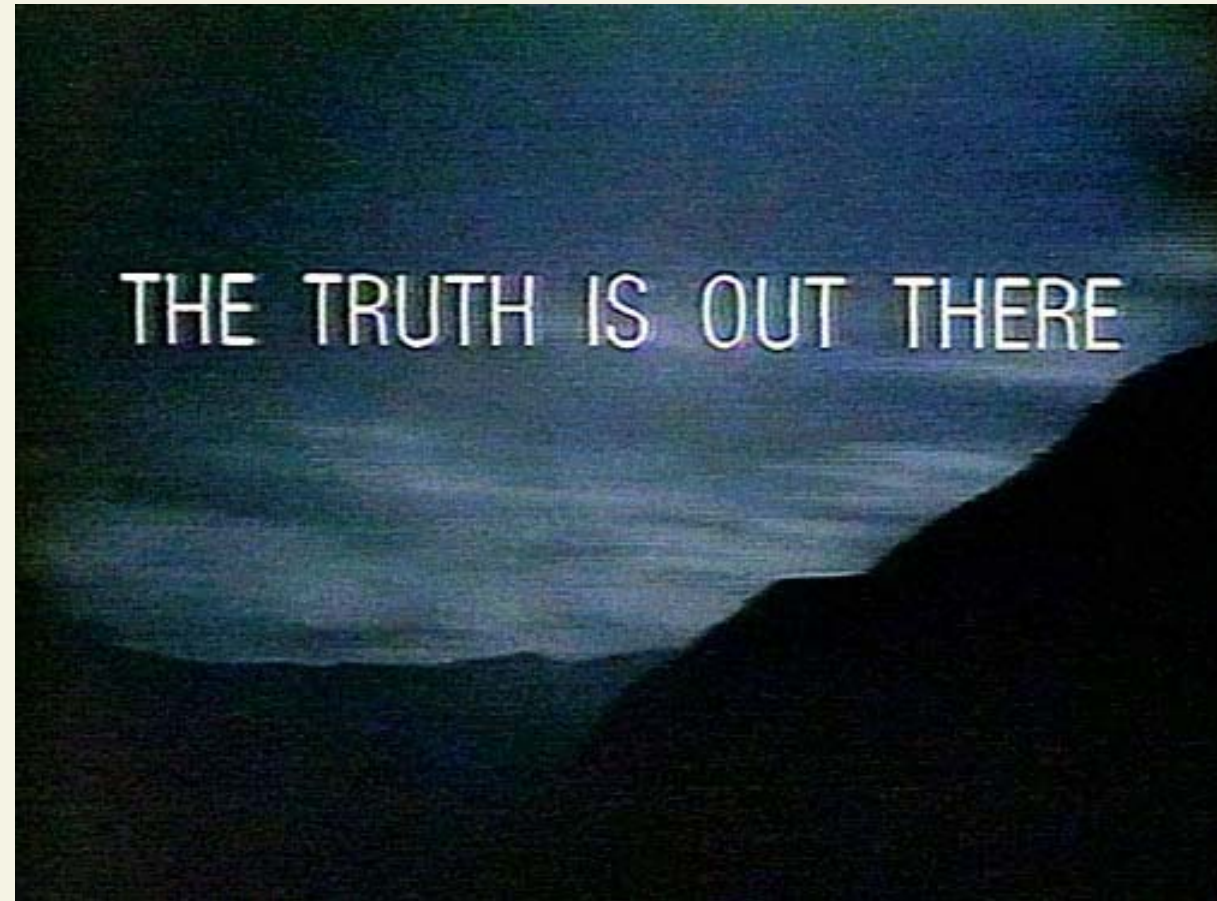
***Am I bothered?
Research does make a difference***

SWLSRN Conference
Jim Crawley 08/07/10



Bath Spa
University

Conversation



Why are we doing research?

- *The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible. (Clarke 1962: page unknown)*
- *To find out what happens to a system when you interfere with it you have to interfere with it (not just passively observe it). (Box 1966: 629)*

Part of learning

- *Learning can be many and very different processes. Learning can appear positive or negative in nature, but for the individual it always has some purpose or other that has to do with managing life and challenges. (Illeris 2007: 2)*

Why are we doing research?

- *all researchers should seek to advance knowledge and truth (Hayes 2003: 15).*
- *The 'means by which we set out to discover the truth' Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007: 6)*

Why are we doing research?

The benefits

- *New insights, ideas and skills to enhance your teaching.*
- *Taking time to read and 'be critical' about writing and literature through research (e.g. struggling through the most pretentious writing you will ever encounter) can be a great way of energising your thinking and actions.*
- *Research credits on your CV can be extremely helpful.*
- *You will develop a more 'leading edge' understanding of your specialist area.*
- *Your capacity to be 'actively critical' will be improved.*
- *When the next new initiative is about to be implemented in your organisation, you may well be able to make a strong case for how it should (or shouldn't) be introduced.*

(adapted from Crawley 2010: 189)

Making a difference

- *Drop out*
- *Learning styles*
- *Participation by disabled learners*
- *Supporting Teacher Educators*

Making a difference

- **Induction** - ways of improving to be implemented in own practice
- **Implementing new courses in a department** - used to enhance this coming year's new programmes for staff and students
- **Reasons why students don't undertake / complete qualification** - found good reasons and recommendations
- **Improving practice with Foundation Learning** - recommendations for staff and college and principal has requested a copy of the report

What next?



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