

Award Title: USDLA Quality Research Paper Award**Award Description: This award is given to the author(s) of a high quality research paper that advances the field of distance learning.**

Criteria	Strong (5)	Medium (3)	Weak (1)	Sample Artifacts
Major impact on advancement of distance learning (40%)	Research address a major concept of distance learning and has the potential to make a significant difference in advancing distance learning.	Research addresses a concept of distance learning.	Research is not particularly relevant to the advancement of distance learning.	Description of how the paper meets this criteria
Sound research methods & peer reviewed (30%)	Research paper uses sound research methodology. Paper has been peer reviewed and accepted or dissertation/thesis has been accepted by the university	Research methodology could be strengthened. Paper is in the process of being peer reviewed or dissertation/thesis is in the process of being accepted by the university.	Research paper does not use sound research methodology. Paper has not been peer reviewed and accepted or dissertation/thesis has not been accepted by the university.	Description of how the paper meets this criteria
Originality and innovativeness (30%)	The research paper makes a major impact on distance learning through a new concept.	The research paper makes a minor impact on distance learning through a new concept.	The research paper makes no significant impact on distance learning.	Description of how the paper meets this criteria