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**The
Higher
Education
Academy**

“The added value of the database is the succinct number of resources per topic in each discipline, and the Subject Centre’s annotation which highlights the resources’ usefulness”

- A member of new academic staff

“We hope that early use of the SNAS database will mean participants are familiar with the literature and scholarship that underpins the teaching of their discipline in higher education. This familiarity should lead participants to use the database for their investigation of an issue linked to the teaching in their discipline later in the course.”

- Jude Carroll, Staff and Educational Development Consultant, Oxford Brookes University

Supporting New Academic Staff (SNAS)

SNAS Online Database



**The
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Enhancing support for the disciplinary focus on professional courses



SNAS Online Database

SNAS was created to provide staff on Academy accredited programmes with discipline-specific resource and guidance to complement generic learning and teaching theory and practice.

A team of Course Tutors and Subject Centres have worked collaboratively to:

- Identify topics covered on initial courses in learning & teaching for new staff for which discipline-specific resources would be useful
- Develop succinct lists of discipline-specific and generic resources to provide a starting point for new academic staff
- Involve experts, Subject Centres and Course Tutors in choosing and annotating the resources
- Establish an online database to make available these resource lists in an easily searchable format.

Recently updated and easy to use

Launched in June 2004, the SNAS online database has been updated for the new academic year. A simple, practitioner-led database, SNAS is both quick and easy to use.

1. Select a discipline from the list, e.g. art, bioscience, history.
2. Select a topic of interest, e.g. assessment, group work.
3. View a short list of results matching the chosen criteria.
4. Choose a resource and find out what the Subject Centres say about it.

Community of Practice

The working partnership between Course Tutors and Subject Centres has resulted in a strong community of practice. This has ensured that the project and the

subsequent development of the SNAS database are community owned and driven by the sector.

This community of practice has also encouraged debate, discussion and the sharing of other common issues. The most notable of these are:

- Linking generic and discipline support for staff engaged on accredited programmes
- Supporting all staff engaged on accredited programmes e.g. part-time teachers, support staff, contract researchers
- Linking teaching with research and scholarship
- Providing opportunities for staff to learn from, and share with, colleagues working in their discipline.

Using SNAS

SNAS provides discipline-specific resource lists that Course Tutors can use to support participants. The website has a number of case studies which show how tutors are using SNAS. These can be easily adapted to a wide range of programmes.

The initial aim of SNAS was to provide support for new lecturers, but feedback has shown that the online database is of use to course tutors and participants on accredited programmes as well as staff engaged in a variety of professional development activities.

For more information, visit the SNAS pages on the Academy website www.heacademy.ac.uk/snas

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