Proposal for a Short Paper Presentation

Title: **Integration of Informatics Concepts and Practices into an Existing University Curriculum**
[subtitle: There's no way we can fit another course into this program!!!!]

Within a four year Baccalaureate program of Nursing Education, this educator is
interested in successfully integrating several computer skills and a knowledge base of
information about the use of computers in healthcare, known as nursing informatics.
After five years of informally trying to get students in this nursing program "practice
ready" with acceptable computer literacy, knowledge base and skills, this educator
recognized the need to formalize the integration of four levels of computer knowledge
and practice into the existing nursing program. This paper is the description of the
results of that integration project. Although this presentation will refer to a nursing
curriculum, these ideas could be relevant to most post-secondary courses where students
need to incorporate computer skills into their programs as accessory to their professional
development.

This short paper will briefly describe

- the rationale for integrating this subject material into the curriculum as opposed to
  presenting it in a 3 credit course format.

- the objectives for the exercises and assignments chosen to help students know and
  practice their computer skills

- the expectations of student performance at each of the four levels

- the faculty development necessary to implement the integration

This paper will be of interest to educators concerned with practical ways to:

- assess student computer comfort and skill levels,

- interest students in using computer skills, and

- prepare students to go out into their career with foundational computer skills and comfort with technological advances.

Resources available with this short paper presentation will include a sample of assignment criteria and guidelines for implementation of computer concepts and practices expected at each level.