





## Andrew Dykes BEd, MA, MSc, CELTA, FHEA

This project has stemmed from professional expertise gained at the University of Southampton 2003 - 2010, where my role was in supporting the learning development and technology needs of the university's community of students with dyslexia.

Widely experienced in earlier-career teaching and learning across the education sector in the UK, the move into Higher Education followed completion of my first Master's in Adult and Lifelong Learning as a student at the University of Bath and latterly the Open University. At Southampton, I completed a second Master's, in Specific Learning Difficulties, where the dissertation component evolved into the pilot study for this current research project based at Middlesex University, which I joined in 2014 on a university-funded Research Studentship.

In 2011 I gained the valuable CELTA qualification to become a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, subsequently teaching international students at an EFL Study Centre in the South of England. More recently my professional role has been as a learning development tutor and academic guide at an East Midlands widening participation university. My expertise and experience in HE has recently been recognized through Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

I am also an active member of the Association for Learning Development in Higher Education (ALDinHE) and of the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), where I am currently building my portfolio to gain Chartered Librarian status.

I am planning for this research project to lead into further research with the aims of gaining a better understanding about the impact of dyslexia in tertiary adult learners – particularly in the context of the unhelpfulness of the label; to advocate a much more accessible and inclusive learning environment at university, and to develop fresh and innovative research instruments to exploit new developments in web-based data-collection and data-visualization techniques.

My wife is a library professional, my eldest son is close to completing his training in medicine and the younger one is working through A-levels, also planning to study medicine. The cat does very little.

### References:

Sander, S., Sanders, L., 2006, Understanding academic confidence, *Psychology Teaching Review*, 12(1) 29-42