My project was a teaching experiment used in a course on Music in Cultures of the World. The major focus of the course was the reciprocal effects of globalization on musics around the world. The experiment consisted of incorporating extensive use of on-line resources by both instructor and students into the traditional lecture format.

The students’ major group project (worth 25% of the course grade), was to create a wiki, in which they chose an area of the world, then investigated its history, instruments, traditional and classical music, and the interaction of that music with other musics. There were two primary reasons for this approach. Firstly, using on-line resources best reflects the fluidity and rapid change of the global music scene. Secondly, many students rely on the Internet as a primary source of information, and mandating its use in class enabled me to teach them how to best search out and evaluate Internet-based information. Furthermore, the University of Regina is physically isolated, with little access to performers of world music. By using the Internet, the class was able to access many more performances, both in lectures and to illustrate their projects, than would be available locally.

Student satisfaction was evaluated through two surveys, one at mid-term and one at semester-end. As an instructor, I found the teaching method successful and was very pleased with the students’ projects.