Loaded to the Max: Finding Time to Conduct SoTL Research

Dr. Peggy Brickman (Plant Biology), Dr. Paula Lemons (Plant Biology), Dr. Kathrin Stanger-Hall (Plant Biology) and Dr. Craig Wiegert (Physics); The University of Georgia
10. Start with a book

Discipline-Based Science Education Research: A Scientist's Guide by Stephanie J. Slater, Timothy F. Slater, and Janelle M. Bailey

Scientific Research in Education Richard J. Shavelson and Lisa Towne, Editors
http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309082919
How Not to Waste My Time
Doing SOTL Research

9. Learn from experts

Find a professional development opportunity in your field (Biology Scholars for example, funds workshops for developing a research question).
How Not to Waste My Time Doing SOTL Research

8. Use training wheels

Colleagues in College of Education, Psychology, Higher Education can be great sources to help find the perfect review of your topic.
7. Take advantage of peer pressure

Investigate your national association - go to meeting and get on listserv (SABER – Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research).
6. Time share

If you have a colleague who will read or listen to your ideas, sit down and get some advice on what you are doing.
How Not to Waste My Time
Doing SOTL Research

5. Don’t bite off more than you can chew

Think of how you can simplify the questions that you are asking.
4. Know your limits

You’d find a good mechanic if you didn’t have that expertise, so why not find a collaborator, consultant, like-minded individuals with the right expertise and experience to help you.
How Not to Waste My Time Doing SOTL Research

3. Read judiciously

Focus your reading for efficiency: Google Scholar is a great start but focus on one good journal that publishes education research in your area and make time once a week to peruse it.
2. Compose as you go

Write an annotated bibliography of your sources, it keeps you from forgetting what you’ve read.
How Not to Waste My Time Doing SOTL Research

1. When in doubt exploit your STEM office

Although you can’t buy happiness, you can hire student workers!