University of Iowa Libraries Staff Publications

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Collaboration as a Means of Developing Better Online Tutorials

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Collaboration as a Means of Developing Better Online Tutorials

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Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa

Objectives

The library system established a task force to investigate Jing, Panopto, Camtasia and Captivate and to create best practices and guidelines for tutorial creation, as well as training materials for other library staff. Now that the materials have been created, we wanted to know how they can be improved.

Methods

A survey was distributed to collect information on staff opinions of the best practices and guidelines materials. In addition, a staff member with little tutorial creation experience reviewed existing materials.

Screen shot of existing guidelines and training materials on staff intranet (HAL)

Shared Documents

Type	Name
	Training Materials
	Best Practices for Tutorials Meeting Notes
	Opening and Closing Screens
	University of Iowa YouTube Channels
	List_of_Tutorials
	Multimedia_Computers_for_Staff_Use
	TutorialsTechSupport
	Guidelines for Tutorial Creation, Publishing, and Sharing
	ULogos and other UI library identity info
	ChoosingSoftware
	BestPracticesForCreatingOnlineTutorials_Checklist_Mar10[2]

Results

Charts with survey* responses.

Are you aware that there is training documentation on developing tutorials located on the HAL site?

Did you find the training materials easy to access and use?

Are you willing to add information about tutorials you have created to the document on the HAL tutorials site?

Do you feel it is worthwhile to work toward improving training materials or sharing of existing tutorials among UI staff?

Short Answer Survey Questions with Summarized Responses

"Please explain why you are not willing to add information about tutorials you have created with the current set up and what might change your mind."

- Spreadsheet is hard to use, a form would be better

"Please share details about barriers that limit your ability to create tutorials, including ideas you might have to reduce these limitations."

- Having to use a dedicated workstation rather than personal workstation
- Time
- Access to resources and help

Please share any ideas you have about how to improve training materials or sharing of existing tutorials among UI Library staff.

- Make the software more accessible
- Dedicated YouTube channel for UI Libraries tutorials
- Post a "Tutorial of the Month" to staff intranet

Feedback from Staff Member with Little Tutorial Creation Experience

- Having a chart with the strengths and weaknesses of the different software programs was very helpful
- Camtasia is not as hard to use as previously anticipated

Future Plans

- Redesign existing training materials
- Update tutorial software comparison chart
- Develop a form or shared LibGuide for easier tutorial sharing
- Offer additional staff training session
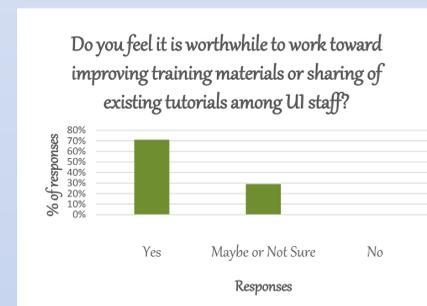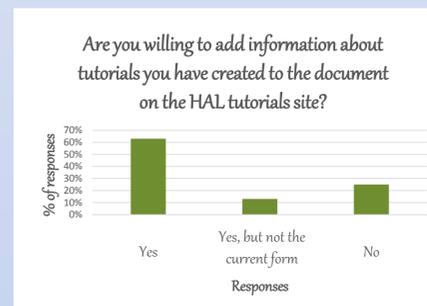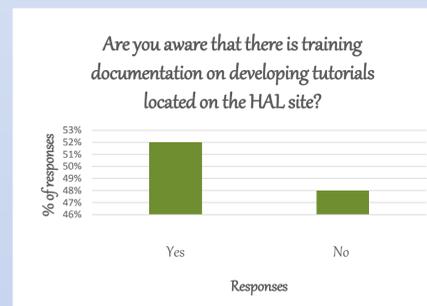- Work with IT staff to address accessibility and training needs

Related presentations:

Blevins, A., Childs, C., Raber, E. "YouTube for hosting video tutorials: The hows, whys, and why nots" —presentation at the Library Technology Conference March 15, 2012.

Blevins, A., Deberg, J. & Childs, C. "Building a best practices team: Creating stronger online tutorials together." —poster presentation at the Midwest Chapter Annual Conference October 10, 2011.

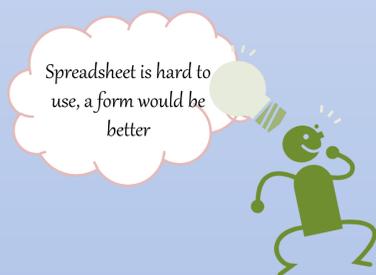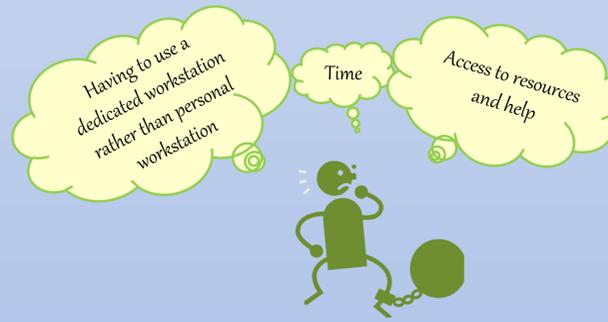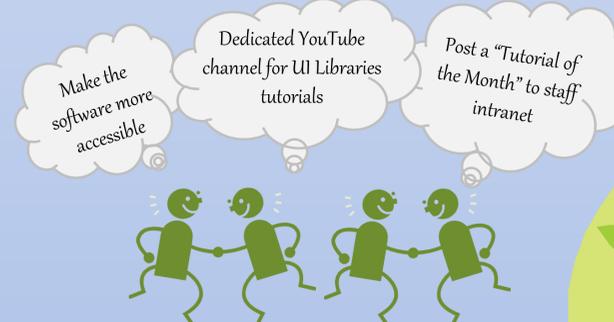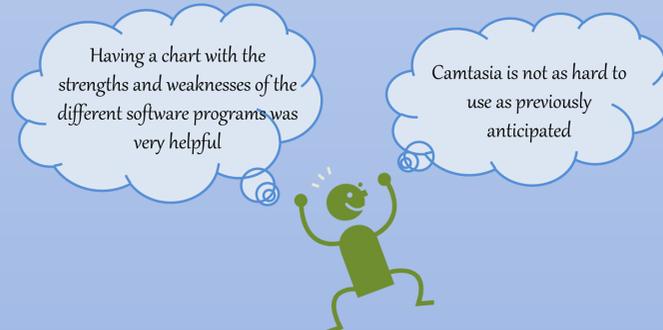*The survey was taken by 24 library staff members. There were 161 library employees at the time of the survey with ~30 official liaisons.

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