A Case Study on Three Tutorial Creating Softwares: Building a Bridge Between On-Campus Instruction and Off-Campus Users

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Purpose

Our purpose was to determine the most appropriate software for creating and delivering online tutorials that will demonstrate effective database searching skills to the users of Laupus Library.

Camtasia
PowerPoint
Mediasite

Most Effective Features*
(by percent)

Video
Mouse Movements
Instructor Presence
Audio Instruction Only
Interaction (clicking to advance tutorial)

Camtasia
33.3
28.6
28.6
28.6

PowerPoint
57.1

Mediasite

Cost*
(as of 4/14/08)

Camtasia
$299

PowerPoint
$0

Mediasite
$18,000

Rate of Accessibility*
(by percent)

100
100
100

Time to Download on 56K modem
(in minutes)

Camtasia
3.7

PowerPoint
5.9

Mediasite
N/A*

*(based on an online survey; users could select more than one)
*(cost based on users with Microsoft Office)
*(based upon users with high-speed internet)
*(Mediasite presentation would not play)

Conclusion

For our users, Camtasia delivered optimal results for shorter database instruction. Mediasite would be more appropriate for lengthier lecture situations. PowerPoint tutorials may be acceptable for situations where budgets are tight.

* (time determined by experienced creators)
*(based on an online survey)