

Interactive Anatomy

The URL for the website developed with Mellon funds is:

<http://www.southwestern.edu/~morganb>

This site contains 40 dissection images of lampreys, sharks, and cats. My intention is for students to access those images and use them as "visual aids" as they study anatomy of those organisms starring in the images. At Southwestern University, the target group is my Comparative Vertebrate Morphology students.

The site is a "work in progress", and will continue to hold that status for at least one more academic year (I will retire at that time.) I still take digital photographs and substitute images when I believe that the new images are superior to those already posted on the site. I am also slowly replacing unlabeled images with labeled ones. Approximately one half of the images currently present are different from those originally posted in December 2001. Since I intend to continue to "improve" the site, there will never be a genuine "final report" for this project.

I have taught Comparative Vertebrate Morphology only once since posting the images. I encouraged the students to access the site, especially as they prepared for the two major practical examinations for the course. About two thirds of the students claimed that they accessed the site and studied the images. None of them raved about how useful the images were. Overall student performance on the two practicals was at essentially the level I have learned to expect from my students. Thus, although I might like to claim otherwise, I have no evidence that the ability to access those dissection images actually helped my students learn anatomy better. The most accurate statement I can make about effectiveness is that my students now have access to virtual dissection images and that those images are used in preparation for practical examinations.

Respectfully Submitted,
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