

Associated Colleges of the South Information Fluency Project - Final Report

Development of a Journal Review Course Module in Biology

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1. We've used the journal review course module in our Fall semester and in our current Spring semester Animal Physiology course. We have the pedagogical approach worked out and documented, and this is included under the headings of 'Introduction', 'Background', and 'Practical Suggestions' in our enclosed HTML file. We have an on-campus server for Blackboard and the students have been using Blackboard's virtual classroom system for their course assignments related to our project. The students have not used any of our developed tutorials, since we only completed them during the current semester. For these two Animal Physiology courses we provided training sessions where we taught them in person how to do searches for journals on the Furman University library homepage and on how to use the Blackboard course management system. However, we will use our developed tutorials during the 2003-2004 academic year.

2. Our main work on this project was the development of web based tutorials on three related subjects. The first is on the basic use of Blackboard, both for student and faculty users. The second is on searching the library databases to find journal articles of interest. The third tutorial is on navigating the Furman University library homepage to obtain articles of interest. These tutorials have been completed and integrated together. They have been enclosed with this final report, and can also be found at the following URL:

<http://facweb.furman.edu/research-skills/>

3. The last part of our project was the generation of pre- and post-survey forms to assess the efficacy of our product. We have administered the pre-survey form to the current Animal Physiology class, and will administer the post-survey form at the end of the semester. These survey forms are also integrated into our HTML document.

4. Finally, we presented our project and demonstrated our tutorials at a Faculty development seminar on May 1, 2003, where we outlined our project to interested faculty and staff. We will also be sending out an e-mail to all faculty and staff notifying them of the URL location of our tutorials, so that those faculty and staff not in attendance at our presentation can make use of our final product.

May 2, 2003