

Development of a Journal Review Course Module in Biology

1. We've started a trial run of the journal review course module in our current Animal physiology course. We have the pedagogical approach worked out and documented, and it will ultimately be included as part of our final product. We now have an on-campus server for Blackboard and the students are currently using Blackboard's virtual classroom system for their course assignments. The students are not using any tutorials as of yet, since we are still working on them. For now we have simply explained in person how to do searches for journals on the library homepage and on how to use Blackboard.
2. Our main work at present is on developing web based tutorials on 3 subjects. The first is on basic use of Blackboard, both for student and faculty users. The second is on searching the library databases to find journal articles of interest. Here we are concentrating on the use of Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. The third tutorial will be on navigating the Furman library homepage to obtain articles of interest.
3. The last part of our project will be generating pre- and post-survey forms to assess the efficacy of our product. This will be completed by April 2003. We will also be presenting a Faculty development seminar (date is not set yet) outlining our project to interested faculty and staff sometime in the Spring semester (April-June). We expect to be finished with our project in the Spring semester, by the time we present our seminar.

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