

Online Tutorial for Music Research

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Abstract:

For this information technology project, the student, faculty, and librarian collaborative team will develop at least one web-based tutorial to provide an opportunity for self-paced learning in a specific area of information fluency skills required for research in music. Potential topics include database structure and efficient searching techniques for Music Index and IIMP (International Index to Music Periodicals), searching the online catalog for music materials, strategies for developing a term-paper topic, or instruction in using a variety of standard reference sources (online and print). The interactive tutorial will include a self-assessment module that will provide immediate feedback on the learning objectives. One potential design option for the assessment tool would have the quiz tied to a database of potential correct and incorrect answers that will return instructive feedback to the student.

Rationale:

In researching and contacting other ACS institutions with a significant music program, it became apparent that other librarians are currently in transition or are currently occupied with major projects that prevent their participation. Providing the grant to this team from Furman would allow us to develop resources that other ACS institutions would be able to use. The tutorial will be designed to be self-contained so that the assessment module will provide feedback to the student regardless of location. While the tutorial will be designed primarily to utilize resources available at Furman's campus, the majority of these resources will be available at other institutions with libraries that own or provide access to standard research tools that support music programs.

Preliminary description:

- a. Timeline: Initial stages of planning have already begun and will continue through winter. The major portion of work will occur in spring and/or summer 2003. The project will be completed by September 2003.
- b. Agenda: Selection of student member of team; planning meetings to determine pedagogical goals, content of tutorial, and draft the format for the online tutorial, including assessment tool; writing the content; creating the web pages including any graphics, animation, etc. that will assist in content delivery; creation of assessment module and technical logistics; usability testing by student and faculty volunteers, including volunteers from other ACS schools (TBA); final editing based on testing information.
- c. Strategies for recruiting participants: The library and faculty members of the team are already recruited. Team leader Laurel Whisler is the music librarian and teaches Music 41: History and Literature of Music
 - I. John Beckford, Professor of Music at Furman, teaches Music 42: History and Literature of Music II. A research paper is required for both courses. A student is being recruited

with the assistance of a professor in the Department of Math and Computer Science, Kevin Treu. Dr. Treu circulated a project summary and is sending names of interested students to Laurel Whisler.

- d. Target Audience: The target audience is music students enrolled in Music 41 and 42 at Furman and students enrolled in similar courses at other ACS institutions, namely advanced undergraduates researching music history in order to complete a term paper or other substantial research assignment.

Plans for follow-up and evaluation:

Current plans include usability testing mentioned in “b” above, faculty observation of the quality of research and ease of understanding during the research process, anecdotal evidence from students, examination of student performance on the assessment feature of the tutorial (providing such can be tracked, saved to database, printed out, etc.), and peer evaluation from other librarians and faculty.

Plans for dissemination of results to the rest of ACS and beyond:

The team will make periodic progress reports as requested and comply with any suggestions the grants committee may have for dissemination.

Replication at other campuses:

Our hope is that the basic structure and functionality of the tutorial can be adapted easily by other institutions and that the content of the tutorial can be modified to suit other instructional objectives.

Preferred time:

Spring and/or summer

Thank you for considering this grant proposal.

Laurel Whisler

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