

# Using Streaming Video for Library Tutorials



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## ABSTRACT:

In addition to offering hands-on classes, printed tutorials and reference service, our library has been seeking a creative method to provide patrons new opportunities for learning library skills.

We have produced several tutorial movies that are aimed at illustrating in real time the use and function of the electronic resources in our library. These movies introduce the patrons, through a vivid demonstration, to new interfaces, provide instructions on improving their search skills, and promote new underutilized features. We have found that these movies have substantially expanded our teaching alternatives. The movies are used in library instruction sessions, library exhibits and they can be easily accessed through the web. The latter is particularly important as it provides 24/7 assistance, specifically to meet the needs of our patrons (busy scientists).

To produce these movies, we utilized software that can record on-screen activity and store it as a video stream. These videos are edited and additional content is incorporated. The ability to export the movies to various formats and platforms allows movies to be incorporated into PowerPoint presentations or produced as Flash streams that can be played in any internet browser. Creating animated graphic displays utilizing these technologies, has enabled us to make available on-demand training which appeals to the visual learners of the younger generation.



# MOVIES

on our web site  
to help you learn

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/BIOS/>

Contact: [sizhaky@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:sizhaky@library.berkeley.edu)

See our tutorial movies at: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/BIOS/media/index.html>

## Introduction

Our tutorial movies record on-screen activity and are aimed at illustrating the use and function of the electronic resources in our library.

The movies:

- \* Introduce patrons to new interfaces
- \* Provide instructions on improving search skills
- \* Promote new underutilized features

These movies have substantially expanded our teaching alternatives. They are used in library instruction sessions, library exhibits, and are accessible through the web.

## Instruction in our library

The Bioscience Library uses several approaches to introduce our patrons to library resources:

- hands-on classes
- printed guides
- reference service

The concept of movie tutorials is a new approach which appeals to visual learners of the younger generation. Unlike the "classical" approaches, the tutorial movies can offer instruction on a 24/7 basis and, most importantly, can be accessed remotely.

## Other uses...

- \* Exhibits: Tutorial movies are been used in the exhibits presented at our library. We have an iMac using PowerPoint, in our library display case that constantly runs several movies. This promotes the library not only to regular patrons, but also to a wide range of visitors.
- \* Reference: The tutorial movies are also used as a part of our reference service. We often refer patrons to a movie, providing a more complete visual answer to their question.

## Properties of a tutorial movie

There are a few points that we considered prior to recording the tutorial movies:

- \* **Content:** The movies will address key issues in regard to a specific resource.
- \* **Length:** The movies should be short to satisfy impatient learners.
- \* **Sound:** Our movies have no sound to facilitate viewing them in the library.
- \* **Extra content:** We should add explanatory screens, dialog boxes & other graphics to clarify specific points & focus the user's attention.

## Producing the movies

There are a few stages in the process of creating a movie:

1. Recording on-screen activity.
2. Adding extra content such as: text, images, graphics, etc.
3. Editing: splicing, duration control, transitions
4. Production in the required format

## Camtasia Studio

We chose Camtasia Studio for the production of our movies. It is a user friendly software that has excellent help. Camtasia fits our basic requirements well. Note that Camtasia does not run on a Mac. However, the movies can be played on a Mac platform.



[www.techsmith.com](http://www.techsmith.com)

## The movies on our Website

To provide the movies on the web, we produced them in a Macromedia Flash format. This is a very popular animation format among Internet browsers. Their relatively small file size (< 3Mb) enables them to be played by patrons using a dial-up connection.

Each movie is viewed between 50-150 times a month.

Tutorial movies currently available  
on our website:

- \* OVID-BIOSIS: Combining author and keyword searches
- \* OVID-BIOSIS: Author searching
- \* OVID-BIOSIS: Advanced subject searching
- \* EndNote: Importing records from PubMed
- \* EndNote: Importing records from OVID databases
- \* RefWorks: Importing records from CSA databases



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