

Live Library Instruction for Distance Learners

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Topic addressed

- ◉ Library instruction to
- ◉ Distance learners using a
- ◉ Synchronous online learning environment
- ◉ called Elluminate

Definition

- ◎ **Synchronous online learning: the use of computers and computer networks to unite teacher and learners in real time and carry the content of the course via two-way communication so that the student may benefit from or initiate dialogue (Rekkedal and Quivst-Eriksen, 2003)**

Experience at USF Lakeland

- ◉ Started in 2005; solo librarian
- ◉ Some 4500 FTE
- ◉ 5 sessions given via Elluminate
- ◉ Educational Leadership department and Industrial Engineering department

Software

- ◎ **Elluminate (<http://www.illuminate.com>)**
 - Created with educational field in mind but does serve corporate as well
 - Functionalities: two-way audio communication, whiteboard, document integration including media, desktop and application sharing, feedback, chat, polling, testing, break-out rooms, screen captures, webcams, webtour, recording
 - Pricing differs based on type of organization, number of seats, hosting options

Software (continued)

- ◎ Similar products: WebEx; Wimba; eLecta
- ◎ Things to consider: platforms and OS compatibilities; accessibility issues; integration to Course Management Software; bandwidth; pricing

Session preparation

- Set time of session with students
- Before the session, instructor requests a classroom and becomes moderator
- Instructor sends their class roster to the electronic classroom administrator. Students then receive the link to the classroom
- Instructor instructs the students on how to install the software on their personal computers and make sure they can connect to the electronic classroom environment
- Students must then be instructed on the different functions of the software

Session preparation (continued)

- ◉ Similarly, the librarian is instructed in how to install and use the software including acting as moderator and the sharing of applications
- ◉ Instructor instructs the students on the need to have an Internet connection where they will attend the session
- ◉ Other software prerequisites related to the presentation itself are also communicated to the students

Content of session

- ◉ Library collections and services information
- ◉ Introduction to catalog search and article databases search; using the catalog, MetaLib/SFX and the various article databases available at the USF Libraries
- ◉ Introduction to citation management software Refworks; using RefWorks and Microsoft Word

Demo

Future

- ◎ More and more online classes at USF Lakeland – three new, completely online programs available
- ◎ More instructors trained in using Elluminate
- ◎ Assessment of information literacy skills
- ◎ Using Elluminate to hold virtual office hours

Q & A

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