Group structure

Initially formed in April 2006, the Learning Collaborative continued in its original configuration in 2006. Chair Judy Dye led the discussions of the group which included members: Jan Dixon, Donna Daniels, Usha Gupta, Phil Jones, Beth Juhl, Patricia Kirkwood, Lora Lennertz Jetton, Elizabeth McKee, Deb Miller, Arthur Morgan, Necia Parker-Gibson, and Luti Salisbury.

In November 2006, with the resignation of Judy Dye, the group was reconfigured. Lora Lennertz Jetton was named chair and the group became a smaller working group. Individuals who continue with the group include Donna Daniels, Necia Parker-Gibson, and Luti Salisbury. They have been joined by Anne Marie Candido and Margaret Boylan.

Software and Instruction

Prior to the groups’ formation, Camtasia was selected as software that would be used to create video instruction presentations. Version 3.0 was installed on all group members’ machines. Throughout summer 2006, members of the group tested and learned the software. John Drewry from Computing Services was a guest for several sessions to provide training to members of the group in the software.

In late November, 2006, Version 4.0 was installed on two members’ machines for testing. To date, this version is still unavailable to the other members of the group or on the Reference laptop or room 472B. While videos still can be created in the older version, the newer version is needed for producing videos to meet current standards.

The group continues to discuss the merits of using Camtasia software versus other software that might be available. If versioning of Camtasia is an issue, reconsideration of the product may be warranted.

Videos created

At the outset of the committee, videos were created and distributed by individuals to departments or classes. By Fall 2006 semester, it was determined that videos should be made available via the web to general audiences. Two videos were implemented for use with the Compathon classes. Necia Parker Gibson created “InfoLinks, The Libraries’ Catalog” and “Finding Journal Articles” early in the fall 2006 semester. A post-test which included a survey tool was also developed and implemented for the former video. A location on the “Research Help” page was identified for hosting the videos.

In November 2006, planning activities began for strategically developing videos. The following areas were initially identified as topics for videos: Searching InfoLinks, Searching for Articles, Interlibrary Loan, Course Reserves, Power Searching Tips for Focusing a Search, and How to Evaluate Resources.

As we continued to evaluate our videos, review the literature, and talk to other practitioners, it was apparent that we needed to focus the videos on smaller topics. A list of 22 potential videos was developed and approved along with potential timelines for development of the top ten videos.
By the end of the fiscal year, three additional videos “Registering for Interlibrary Loan,” “Requesting Items on Interlibrary Loan,” and “Managing and Retrieving Your Interlibrary Loan” were available to the public.

Due to changes with web authentication, problems with access to software during domain transition and the WebPac redesign, the group continued to write, develop and approve storyboards but decided to refrain from video production until July. Storyboards for “Finding Materials in Course Reserves at the University of Arkansas Libraries,” “Author Searching in the Online Catalog,” and “An Explanation of FindIt!” have been initially edited. Storyboards for “What is a Journal?,” “What is InfoLinks?” and “Keyword Searching” are in development.

While the committee as a whole reviews and edits the texts and images, the following individuals have been involved in initial script writing – many of whom are not members of the committee itself – Tess Gibson, Steve Chism, Tim Zhou, Deb Kulczak, Judy Dye, Necia Parker-Gibson, Luti Salisbury, and Lora Lennertz Jetton. This year producers have included Judy Dye, Necia Parker-Gibson, and Lora Lennertz Jetton.

Other progress made

In order to make the instructional videos, additional planning and preparation was necessary. In spring 2007, the group developed initial guidelines for creating the videos in terms of resolution (capture and presentation), style of the Camtasia player and metadata terms.

In December 2006, the group initiated discussion on assessment tool options. While some testing with assessment of the videos was performed, additional work needs to be completed in this area.

The committee also discussed methods for complying with captioning requirements. Initial experiments with captioning using Version 3 of the software were not acceptable. Other software options for captioning were not acceptable due to player requirements and human and equipment costs. The committee determined that initial videos would be presented with transcripts. A combined storyboard/transcript template is now used for creating and reviewing scripts and creating transcripts. Captioning with the new version of the software may be addressed in the future.