Learning Cooperative Group
Minutes
5/4/06

Present: Daniels, Dixon, Dye, Jones, Juhl, Kirkwood, Lennertz Jetton, Morgan, Salisbury

Guest: Sarah LaVaute

Correction from minutes from 4/20/06:
Sentence should read: Some members in the group do not have adequate “microphones” (not “speakers”) to make recordings.

Donna Daniels invited a guest, Sarah LaVaute, instructional designer from the Walton College of Business to talk with our group about her experiences with using Camtasia with faculty in her school.

Dye explained the purpose of our group and what we are trying to accomplish.

LaVaute collaborates with her faculty on courses. The business faculty use Camtasia to teach students how to do tasks such as using spreadsheets, etc. The School has found it helpful to make their videos interactive – the student view the movie, pause the movie when instructed to do so, practice hands-on the methodology learned, then resume the movie.

Kirkwood asked about making a movie of a long presentation, such as one incorporating numerous PowerPoint slides. It was suggested that we break the presentation into smaller parts.

Dye asked about branding. LaVaute said that branding is not easy in Camtasia because we are recording screen shots, but that we can have a page up front with the information we want on all our tutorials. Tutorials should have some constancy, such as having downloadable handouts, etc. in the same place in the tutorials. Branding, if possible, is good because in an online environment, students multitask and they will know where they are if they have other windows open.

When making a tutorial, we should have a script or easy job aid that students can print off. We should also provide instructions on how to view the video, and what equipment requirements there are. Provide information on “navigation of Camtasia files.” Say up front: “Here is what you need to see this.” Students need support to the technology we are asking them to use. Real Player is the most common software in which to view videos. Inform users to have Real Player installed.

The Business School uses MediasiteLive to record courses, and Camtasia movies can be incorporated in the course recording. LaVaute talks with her faculty about their specific use of online materials, and offer to make them a Camtasia video. She suggests making a script prior to making the video. A lot of copyright issues come up with faculty. She has an instructional plan to use with faculty. She gives faculty orientation sessions on the Camtasia software, microphone, etc. The faculty do their own recording and editing. Her department reviews what the faculty make, and post it.

One issue in working with databases is that they change all the time. You can use the broad “if, then,” approach to make the videos compatible with different databases and changed databases. Determine commonalities in the databases and reference those.

LaVaute’s department saves their videos in .avi files.

A question came up about problems with MAC users. MAC users have laptops with windows, so they should be OK.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2006 at 10:30am.

Submitted by
Judy Dye; 5/8/06