Assessing Student Preference for Interactive vs. Video Library Tutorials

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Tutorial Uses

- Point of Need Instruction in Online Spaces
- Flipped Classroom Instruction
- Replacements for In-Person Instruction

Video Tutorials

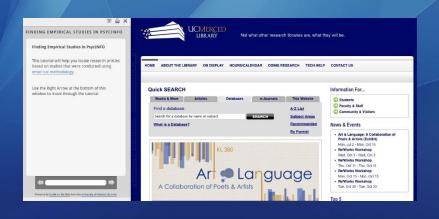
- Quick & Easy to Create
- Students Heavy Video Consumers
- Passive Learning Experience

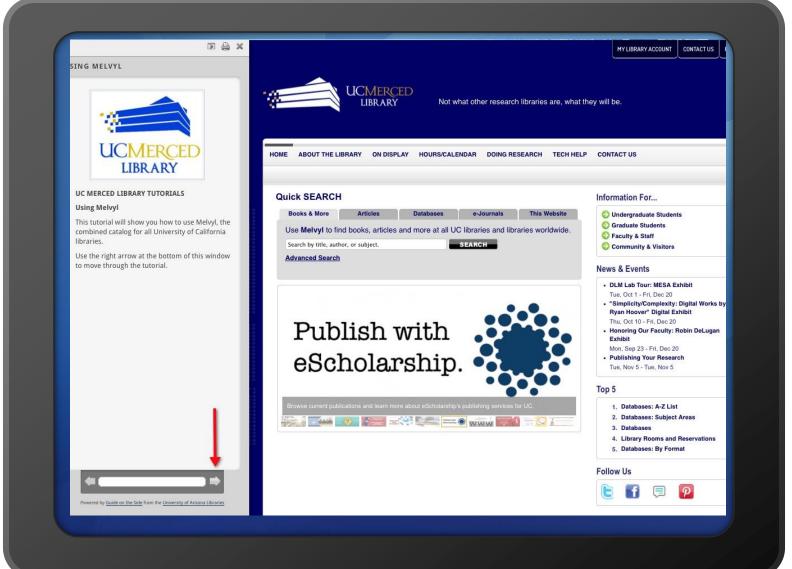


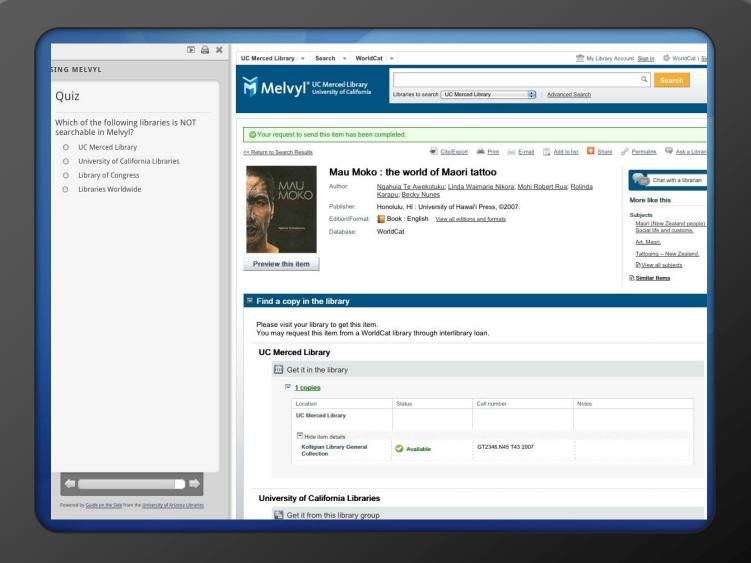
Image courtesy of Techie Mania

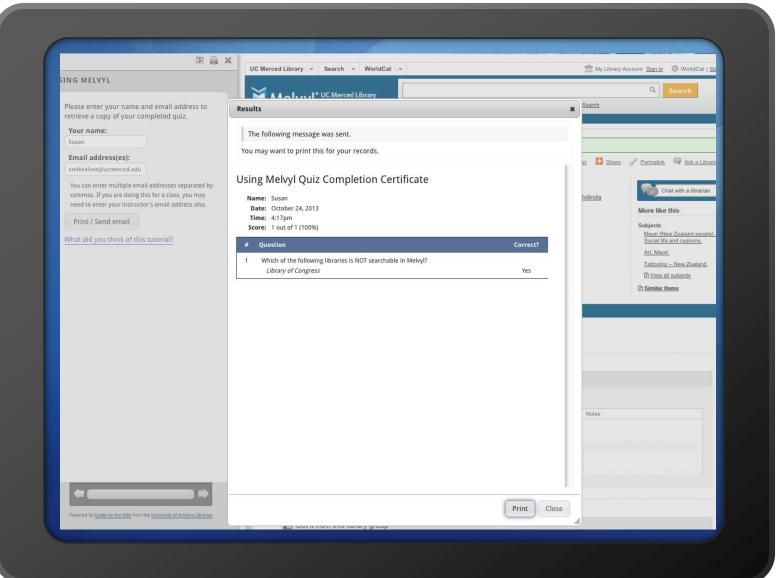
Interactive Tutorials

- Guide on the Side Open Source tutorial software
- Two panes
 - Left = Step by Step Instructions
 - Right = Active Web Page









Research Question

 Given the option, would students choose to use a passive video tutorial or an interactive tutorial?

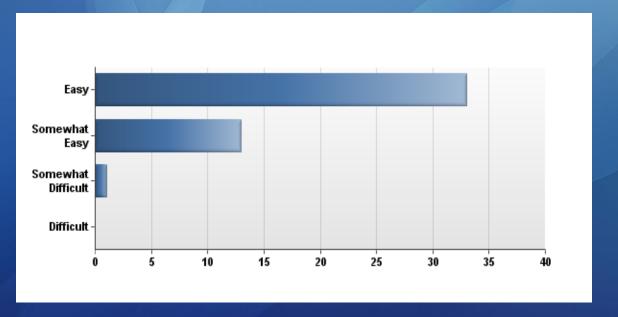
Study Methodology

- Developed 3 sets of tutorials (GOTS & video) for use in a flipped classroom scenario
- Three sections of upper division writing participated in the study
- Tutorials were assigned as homework
- Students completed a short a post-tutorial survey in Qualtrics
- Two sections wrote a short essays reflecting on their experience using the tutorials

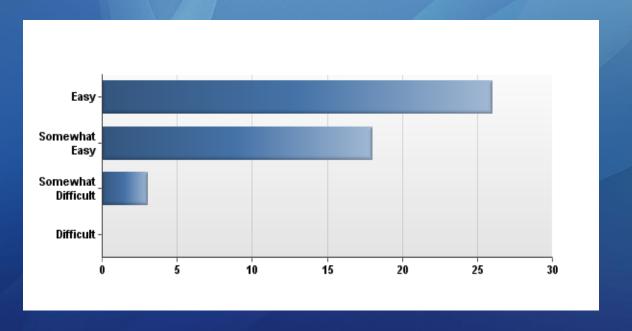
Given the choice, would students prefer interactive tutorials or video tutorials?

- Survey Questions
 - Rate how easy or difficult it was for you to understand concepts presented in the video/interactive tutorial(s)
 - Rate the amount of time it took to complete the video/interactive tutorial(s).
 - Rate your overall satisfaction with the video/interactive tutorial(s).
 - Given the choice, which type of tutorials would you likely choose for future library instruction?
 - What tutorial features are most important to you?

Rate how easy or difficult it was for you to understand concepts presented in the video tutorial(s).



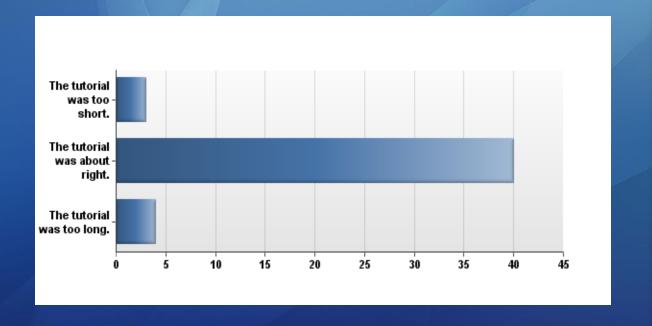
Rate how easy or difficult it was for you to understand the concepts presented in the interactive tutorial(s).



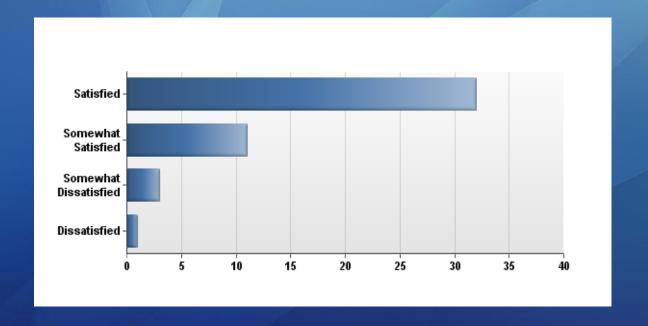
Rate the amount of time it took to complete the video tutorial(s).



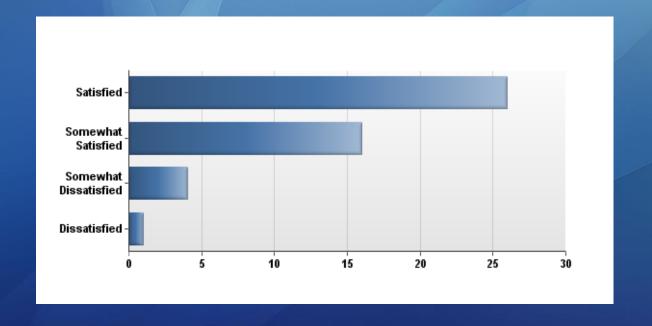
Rate the amount of time it took to complete the interactive tutorial(s).



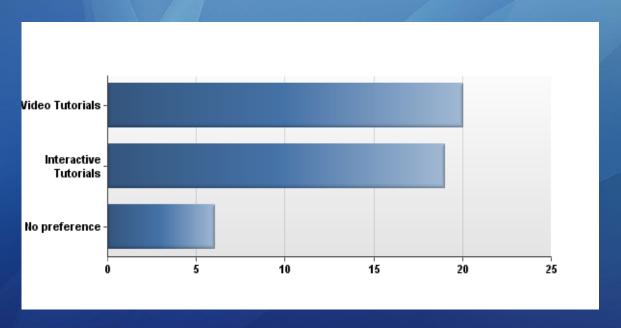
Rate your overall satisfaction with the video tutorial(s).



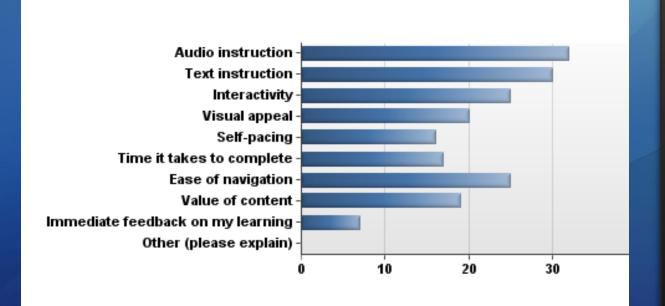
Rate your overall satisfaction with the interactive tutorial(s).



Given the choice, which type of tutorials would you likely choose for future library instruction?



What tutorial features are most important to you?



Student Reflective Essays

- 35 students completed a reflective essay
- 21 indicated a preference for the video tutorials
- 9 indicated a preference for the interactive tutorials
- 5 preferred a combination of video + interactive tutorials

Top Reasons for Video Preference

- Visuals "I am a visual learner"
- Audio "being able to listen to a voice giving instructions...makes it easier for me"
- Easier to Understand "I understand the concepts much better"

Top Reasons for Interactive Preference

- Interactivity "I was able to navigate on my own with easy direction"
- Text Instruction "The benefit of the interactive tutorial is that you have the instructions written out"
- Self Pacing "can proceed and understand the content at their own pace"

Student Comments

From a student who preferred the video tutorials:

"I found [the interactive tutorial] a little bit harder to work with, just because I had to go back and forth from reading the instructions on the left hand side to actually performing the task on the right hand side. It was distracting and took longer to understand. I chose to watch the video tutorial after choosing the interactive tutorial to confirm that I understood what was being taught. I found that the video tutorial was quick and to the point, and very easy to understand because it was easy to follow."

Student Comments

From a student who preferred the interactive tutorials:

"Both interactive and video tutorials appeared to attain the same results but I felt that the interactive tutorial had a greater effect. As a person who prefers hand-on task, learning alongside step by step instruction became intuitive and the information of how to make clear and concise searches became natural. The video was good in a sense where it showed us how to do specific searches but the information was not retained as easily as the interactive tutorial. Having done the interactive tutorial, I feel more familiar with the website as if I have been using it throughout my college years."

Student Comments

From a student who preferred to do both the video and interactive tutorials:

"It was easier to pay attention to the video tutorial rather than the interactive tutorial because I just had to watch what the librarian was doing. Although the interactive tutorial wasn't as interesting, I retained the information I learned. If I forgot any information during the session, I could just go back to the previous slide and read it over."

What We Learned...

- Students are split on tutorial preference
- Student awareness of learning styles influences tutorial preference
- Video tutorials may be best as stand-alone learning objects not connected to a class or assignment
- Interactive tutorials may be best when connected to a class or assignment, e.g. there is incentive to complete them

How We've Responded

- Added matching video tutorials alongside existing interactive tutorials on library tutorials page
- New tutorials are created in both formats

Questions?

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