ONLINE TUTORIAL

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Description

Name of the tutorial: Research 101
Subject: How to do research
URL: http://www.lib.washington.edu/uwill/research101/basic03.htm
Content description: This online tutorial includes six modules. Namely The Basics, Info Cycles, Topics, Searching, Finding, and Evaluating. These modules are designed to teach research.

Target Audience

Freshmen college students at the University of Washington

Learning Goal

Learning outcome: Students who can research material effectively
Why tutorial appropriate: Self-paced, in addition to module tests the material is open to review, no time restraints, students are busy, can access at 3a.m. if needed.

Quality of Content

Is the content instructional, clear, and concise? Yes
Is the activity or content aligned with the learning goal? Yes
Is the tutorial interesting, fun, or engaging for the audience? No
Is the "look and feel" professional, clean and credible? Yes with qualifications-UGLY!
Is the amount of material appropriate for the learner? Yes, again with qualifications-the database information in the searching module are very detailed but the rest remain basic.

Usability

Clear Directions? Yes
Is the navigation of the tutorial easy to understand and do? Yes
Does the user know what sections they have accomplished or where they are in the overall structure? Yes, this is always highlighted

Does the tutorial offer opportunities for the learner to interact with it? Yes-review quizzes, additional information links throughout, this however is inconsistent.
Can the learner control the object (pause, repeat, manipulate, after the learning path)? Yes

Assessment

Does the tutorial include an assessment tool? Yes
If an assessment is present, is it effective? Yes
Does it evaluate what was taught? The review quizzes ascertain whether the user knows the information sufficiently or needs to review the section

Effectiveness

Objectives are listed with each module and the tutorial is effective in teaching these.

Improvements

The pages are not attractive and detract from an otherwise effective tutorial. The images were chosen without care. The content is excellent but the colors and design are lackluster. The Searching module should've been titled Databases. While it includes searching in general it also gives detailed database information and suggestions for searching in these databases. I wouldn't immediately know where to look if I needed a database refresher.