An Online Learning Module to Teach Academic Honesty to Computing Students

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Presentation Outline

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Background

- Universities aim to offer complete education plans including not only lectures and studies but also education on correct behaviours

- Universities want their graduates
  - To be capable of independent thought
  - Be able to do their own work
  - Know how to acknowledge the work of others

- All the above are part of Academic Honesty

The Problem

- Academic Honesty is well understood by universities but often not clear for the students
    - Students are not well informed on what exactly is Academic Honesty
    - Students often are not aware that they have plagiarised

- Universities often can not explicitly provide the resources or tools to help students distinguish between correct or incorrect academic behaviour

Project Aim

- Create an online tool offering information and relevant material on correct Academic Behaviour

- Help students raise their awareness on plagiarism

- Help students increase their self-learning capabilities via interactivity and feedback

Project Outcomes

- A fully working website including

  - Information on plagiarism (description, types & levels)

  - Macquarie University Policy on Academic Honesty

  - A case study of examples

  - Quizzes

  - Help Tips on correct reference of work of others

  - Links to other relevant sources including books, other websites and useful relevant tools

Defining Plagiarism

- The most common form of Academic Dishonesty

- Copying word-for-word from a book, article, or webpage without placing the copied material in quotation marks and acknowledging the source in a footnote or list of references

- Paraphrasing of material without acknowledging the original source

Plagiarism and the Internet

- Easy to search for information from a huge database of online resources

- With a simple click writers can copy paste data

- Known as Internet plagiarism or e-cheating

- Surveys have shown that the Internet has increased the cases of plagiarism all around the world
  - 40% of students at Northumbria University attributed plagiarism to the ease of copying material from the Internet (Dordoy, 2002)
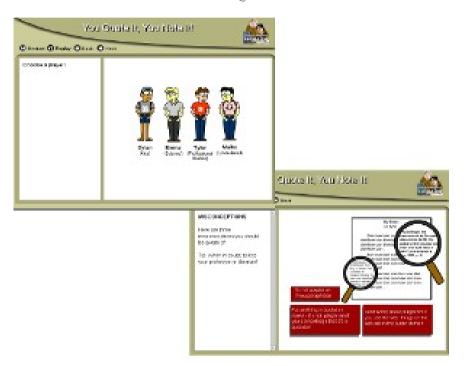
Coping with Plagiarism

- Use strict controls
- Make the rules clear and have known penalties
- Design assessment instruments that make cheating difficult
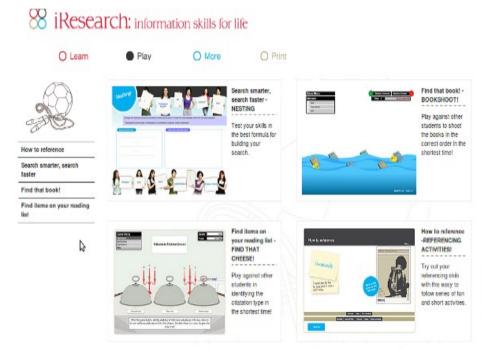- Develop a climate that will reduce the likelihood of cheating.

This project focuses on strategies to <u>encourage</u> honesty versus strategies to <u>discourage</u> dishonesty/plagiarism.

Similar Tools

You Quote It, You Note It
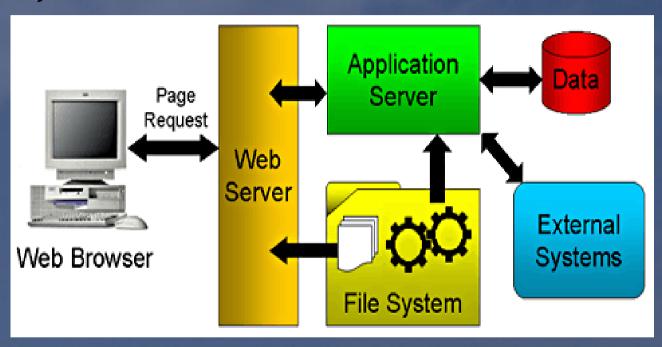

iResearch

System Requirements

- Users shall be able to view information on plagiarism and correct Academic Behaviour

- Users shall be able to access and answer quizzes on plagiarism

- Users shall be able to access information on how to correct reference the work of others

- Lecturers shall be able to add new examples of cases of plagiarism

Design

System Architecture

HTML, CSS
VB.NET
Microsoft Visual Studio 2008

The System

Testing

- ## Unit Testing

- ## Cross-Broswer Testing

- ## Usability testing
  - ### Questionnaires to computing students to test functionalities

Sections	Average Rating
Overall Rating of the Website	
Homepage is clear	4.5
What is plagiarism page is clear	4.88
Types of plagiarism page is clear	4.75
How to avoid plagiarism page is clear	4.63
Procedures and Policies page is clear	4
Using sources page is clear	4.38
Referencing page is clear	4.75
Academic Honesty Policy page is clear	4.5
Examples of Academic Dishonesty page is clear	4.25
Web Page Rating	
Ease of use	4.38
Sequence of pages is clear	4.25
Able to read text on each page	3.88
Choice of colours is appropriate	3.75
The overall site is attractive	4
Terminology and Website Information	
Use of terms is consistent	4.38
Position of messages on screen is consistent	4.5
Purpose of the website is clear	4.88
Screens have the right amount of information	4
General Comments	
I found the tool useful for understanding plagiarism	4.25
I learnt something about plagiarism I did not know	4.25
I found the quiz helpful to test out the knowledge	4.13
I think the tool would be useful for computing students	4.5

Demonstration

Future Work

- Advanced content management for lecturers and administrators

- Plagiarism detection tool

- Personalised account for students

- Forums, wikis, live chat