Virtual Library Instruction: Follow Your Path

**Introduction**
In an effort to provide virtual library instruction to a psychology class at UW-Madison, we explored creating interactive tutorials utilizing advanced features in Adobe Captivate. Our end product was a suite of dynamic tutorials that accommodates different learning styles and simulates the leveling up process in game play.

**Pedagogy**
While some learners best absorb new material by first receiving a lecture-style overview, other learners prefer to acquire new knowledge through direct hands-on activities. The interactive tutorials we created allow users to determine their own learning paths, either by starting with the instructional modules then going to hands-on practice, or by starting with hands-on simulation of database searching then going on to the tutorials when they fail to perform required tasks. On the one hand, successful completion of hands-on activities demonstrates mastery of targeted skills. On the other hand, failure during the hands-on activities highlights the users’ gaps in knowledge and increases the pertinence of the tutorials once they do choose to view the corresponding instructional videos.

In addition, these interactive tutorials draw upon game design, in which learners “level up”, or progressively unlock modules based on performance in the previous activity module, culminating in a certificate of completion. By breaking up the tutorial into modules, users are validated and enjoy a sense of accomplishment as they complete each section.

**How We Did It**
The interactive features of our tutorials are largely based on advanced functions offered in Adobe Captivate. By creating variables and using advanced action scripts, we are able to track user input and instantaneously customize feedback to users.
First create variables... then apply variables to advanced action scripts...

Finally, run action scripts on selected slides.

**Helpful Resources**

To create variables  [http://kb2.adobe.com/community/publishing/862/cpsid_86299.html](http://kb2.adobe.com/community/publishing/862/cpsid_86299.html)
To create advanced action scripts  [http://kb2.adobe.com/community/publishing/858/cpsid_85847.html](http://kb2.adobe.com/community/publishing/858/cpsid_85847.html)

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