



**EMPOWER your students now:
Rapid repackaging of open publication
material into a customized information literacy
tutorial**

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<http://library.wichita.edu/empower>

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What is EMPOWER? EMPOWER is an information literacy tutorial that introduces students to the process of researching information in an academic environment. EMPOWER shows students what information resources are available both in the library and on the Web, how to find them, how to use them efficiently, and how to evaluate them.

TILT (Texas Information Literacy Tutorial) from The University of Texas System Digital Library was introduced in 1998. *TILT* has an Open Publication License, meaning the material may be reproduced and distributed (as long as certain terms are adhered to). Other libraries have customized *TILT* into their own tutorials, including *Searchpath* from Western Michigan University (2002), and *Inflite* from IUPUI (2003).

The EMPOWER team examined these three tutorials and chose which portions (such as games and other Flash elements) to keep and adapt for our own tutorial. Since technology changes rapidly, much of the information from the previous tutorials was out of date. We estimate we have added 30% new material to EMPOWER.

The name EMPOWER comes from the WSU Libraries' vision statement (*Explore...Enlighten...Empower*). The logo incorporates elements of the WSU logo.

After much discussion, we decided to divide EMPOWER into 6 modules—a model similar to *Searchpath* and *Inflite*. In organizing the modules on the selection screen, we put them in a suggested order (indicated by the arrows), although users are free to choose modules in any order. Each color-coded module has a title and a brief description.

Each module contains the following elements:

- Between 8 and 15 screens that users navigate through by clicking on arrows.
- List of learning objectives students will reach by the end of the module.
- Brief and concise text, still images, and animations.
- Interactive elements to let users test their knowledge and stay engaged (ex. pop-up screens, live links to websites and library resources, Flash games, and brief Camtasia tutorials).
- Optional quizzes to import into the Blackboard course management system.

The Process of Building EMPOWER. First, templates were created for each module. The templates included page number, title, margins, and navigation bars. Then, the modules were divided among team members to fill in the content. This process took several weeks. EMPOWER consists of XHTML 1.0 transitional, CSS, JavaScript, image files, and Flash files.

- Images used throughout the tutorial came from previous tutorials, from the public domain, and from Microsoft Clipart.
- Some of the Flash files were customized to use WSU Libraries terminology or to match module color schemes.

- Brief tutorials were created with Camtasia software to demonstrate some library resources such as the library catalog. This is a significant improvement over the awkward frames used in *Inflite* and *Searchpath*.

In addition to the modules, EMPOWER contains supplemental information including a Glossary, a Help page, a Getting Started page, and a Contents page (which directly links to each page in EMPOWER).

Benefits and Limitations of Online Tutorials. Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) is supplemental to traditional Bibliographic Instruction (BI). Benefits of CAI include individual pacing of instruction, alternative learning environment, and using the computer to teach technology skills. Drawbacks include instructors who want to replace BIs with the tutorial, a lack of connection with the physical space of the library, and the fact that without an external motivation, most students will not use the tutorial.

To combat this last drawback, we have created quizzes for each module. These may be exported from Blackboard, a course management tool where they were created, sent as an attachment to instructors, who can then upload it into their own course. Another option would be to have an Empower team member listed as a co-instructor. Blackboard will allow completion rates and progress to be tracked, instructors can have another grading tool, and students can get immediate feedback on their progress.

Resources for Customizing EMPOWER for Your Students.

Download the EMPOWER files at: <http://library.wichita.edu/empower/downloadempower.htm>

Web Editors:

- Dreamweaver(free trial): <http://www.adobe.com/products/dreamweaver/>
- Expression Web(free trial): <http://www.microsoft.com/expression/products/overview.aspx?key=web>
- Visual Web Developer Express(free): <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/vwd/>

Video Screen Capture:

- Camtasia(free trial): <http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.asp>
- CamStudio(free/open source): <http://camstudio.org/>

Still Screen Capture:

- FullShot(free trial): <http://www.inbit.com/fullshot.html>
- SnagIt(free trial): <http://www.techsmith.com/screen-capture.asp>

Graphic Editors:

- Photoshop(free trial): <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/>
- Inkscape(free/open source): <http://www.inkscape.org/>

Flash:

- Flash(free trial): <http://www.adobe.com/products/flash/>

Code Validation:

- W3C Markup Validation Service(free): <http://validator.w3.org/>

Contact Information.

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