ASSETT UPDATES

Dear Friends,

Did you know that ASSETT has supported over 50 course innovations in Arts & Sciences? Many of these have been through our Development Awards, which offer up to $5000 to support integrating technology into the curriculum. Over the years, we've awarded more than $200,000 to projects across the College. You'll find more information about this semester's call for proposals in this newsletter.

In ASSETT, we are enthusiastic about supporting teaching and learning through technology. We are an A&S program, and we work to meet the unique needs of departments and programs in the College. A new project this fall is our series highlighting outstanding instructors of large lecture courses. Keep an eye out in the coming months for videos to learn more about your colleagues and their suggestions for success. No matter what kinds of courses you teach or how you work with students, I hope you feel invited and welcome to contact any of our staff with your ideas and projects. We look forward to hearing from you.

Michele Jackson
Associate Professor, Communication
Director, ASSETT

TIPS and TRICKS

Did you know that an average of 11% of college students have a disability? Have you ever considered making your course materials accessible

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ABOUT US

[Teaching and Learning Consultants](#) seek to inform, facilitate connections and encourage inspiration in those exploring new way of teaching with technology.

[Our Creative Services Web team](#) is comprised of talented experienced web and graphic designers committed to bringing fresh design ideas to your academic web site redesign.

[ASSETT's Teaching Technology Assistants](#) are familar and comfortable with technology. Their primary goal is to help people in A&S learn to use and maintain technology in an educational environment, rather than to fix

to all of your students? Even a small change can be of tremendous help to students who use Assistive Technologies. If you are ready to make that change, follow these tips and start creating accessible PDFs to keep your course materials on the right side of the law!

1. *Start with an accessible document*

Whenever possible, create your original document using a word processor such as Microsoft Word. Share the original Word document with your students, if you can. If not, then make sure to convert your Word file into a PDF correctly (follow this tutorial for more information: Converting Documents to PDF)

2. *Create text searchable documents*

Students cannot select or edit the text or manipulate the PDF for accessibility if a document contains scanned images of text. Scanned images of text must be converted into searchable text using optical character recognition (OCR). Use ASSETT's custom-built OCR service to make your PDFs searchable:
https://compass.colorado.edu/ocr/

3. *Disable security features that interfere with assistive technologies*

Some authors of PDFs restrict students from printing, copying, extracting, editing or adding comments to text. The text of an accessible PDF must be available to a screen reader. PDF's security settings can be set to protect document content while not interfering with a screen reader's ability to convert the on-screen text to speech or Braille.

In addition, consider the following when creating the content:

- use color combinations that provide a sufficient degree of contrast
- use text instead of images of text
- do not rely on color or sensory characteristics alone to convey meaning

Adopted from: www.adobe.com
For more information and tutorials on creating accessible PDFs, follow this link:
http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/resources.html

EDUTECH OF THE MONTH:

Do you often use collaborative activities in your classes to optimize student learning? Would you like to try a platform that makes it easy to create such activities and better manage students and their assignments? Then check the following tool that ASSETT's Teaching & Learning Consultants selected as the EduTech of the Month.

broken technology.

Contact us:
assett@colorado.edu or
303.735.3813

ASSETT Custom Tools and Applications Places, OCR, Syllabus Archive, and SPARC

CONNECT WITH US

What is it?
Mindomo is an online concept mapping tool and service that offers you the perfect habitat to develop ideas and brainstorm.

Why use it?
Instructors can use this tool to turn abstract knowledge into concrete visual representations of key concepts, making it easier for students to take in the complex information. Instructors can also encourage students to mind map in order to assess their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Mindomo can help students to collaborate with other classmates as they work together on assignments. Students can also be encouraged to take notes in class through mind mapping.

How can I learn more about it?

Check out this brief Mindomo tutorial to learn more about this interactive tool. Also, browse this page to see sample classroom exercises and mind maps.
http://bit.ly/SampleExcercises

WHAT'S NEW AT ASSETT?

Development Awards

ASSETT invites proposals from Arts & Sciences Faculty, Departments, and Programs for awards relating to the use of technology primarily for teaching and learning. The maximum award possible is $5000.

Faculty of any rank and GPTIs may apply. Unit chairs or directors must provide a brief supporting letter. Department proposals for equipment or software that may be used in teaching and learning are also welcome.

For more information about the Development Awards including the submission form, follow this link: http://bit.ly/DevAwards2014

Deadline for proposal submission:
October 15, 2014

Screencasting Workshop

Do you have a Camtasia license but need a quick refresher course? Or, are you finding that you are outgrowing the software you are currently using to create screencasts? If so, come to ASSETT's Advanced Screencasting Workshop. In this one-hour session, we'll build on basic skills that were covered in the introduction workshop. We'll present ways that you can create a professional screencast using design principles, accessibility guidelines, and audio and video tricks.

Workshop Dates:
October 29, 2014 12-1:00 pm in Macky 230 **OR**
October 30, 2014 12-1:00 pm in Macky 230

For more information and registration information, go to:
https://assett.colorado.edu/learn/workshopsbrown-bags/advanced-screencast-workshop/

Advanced Screencasting
October 29, 2014 12-1:00 pm
October 30, 2014 12-1:00 pm

For more information and registration, visit:
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ASSETT Custom Tools and Applications

PLACES   OCR   SYLLABUS ARCHIVE   SPARC