

VIKO: The Development and Implementation of an E-learning Tool for Information Literacy

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Introduction

VIKO - Your road to information literacy is an online interactive tutorial in information literacy, developed at the NTNU Library. VIKO is aimed at new students at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

This presentation describes the development of the interactive E-learning tool, VIKO, and its implementation at NTNU and St. Olavs Hospital, Trondheim University Hospital.

Objectives

- Increase information literacy at NTNU and St Olavs Hospital
- Increase quality of student performance
- Substitute basic user education and thereby free library resources

Information Literacy is the ability to recognise when and what information is needed, and the knowledge of how to locate, evaluate, and use the information

Theory and methods

1. PLANNING PHASE, PILOT PROJECT

January - March 2003

Examining several tutorials looking for usage, feedback, technical solutions and cost-benefit.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The library and NTNU would benefit from developing a tutorial
- The tutorial must be integrated in teaching

REQUIREMENTS:

- Concept based on information literacy, focusing on problems and solutions
- Interactivity
- Integration in library user education
- Flexible and easy to maintain and update
- Based on standards
- Available on the Web, free of charge

2. DEVELOPING PHASE

June 2003 July 2004

- Project group with 3 members
- 4 co-workers to help designing and writing the tutorial
- Reference group of 4 librarians from various sections of the library

Two usability tests were carried out, based on Jakob Nielsen's "Usability test".

3. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

May 2004 -

Various attempts were made in order to prepare the implementation of VIKO at NTNU.

Promoting VIKO:

- For introduction classes for first years students
- For Teaching Assistants
- For instructors at various departments
- At orientation meetings for students
- In courses in NTNU's E-learning system for teaching staff

Implementation of VIKO in the user education at the NTNU Library.

Result

VIKO consists of 7 modules and provides a complete course in information literacy. The modules and parts of these can be used as a tool-box, and can be implemented in other library and university courses. VIKO also includes a two minute "trigger" video.

VIKO is an in-house project designed and developed at the NTNU Library.

VIKO MODULES



How to define research topic



How to find relevant information sources



How to find books



How to search databases for articles



How to use the web to find information



How to evaluate information sources



How to write papers and cite references

IMPLEMENTATION AT NTNU

VIKO frees time for academic staff in connection with instruction by providing a tool for information retrieval and writing academic papers.

- VIKO has been used successfully in introduction classes for new students resulting in increasing the students level of academic writing, citing and bibliographic references
- VIKO has been introduced to writing classes for Teaching Assistants
- VIKO is recommended by the judicial experts at NTNU to prevent plagiarism
- VIKO has freed library resources in reference work and user education

USE OUTSIDE NTNU

- Integrated in student web portals in two colleges
- Linked by various colleges and other institutions
- Used in nursing education at hospitals
- Used in high schools, by the school libraries



Conclusions

The response from students and staff confirms that VIKO is useful and meets student's needs to enhance information literacy and writing skills.

To make a successful tutorial the following conditions must be present:

- The library must support the project fully
- The content must meet the needs of the users
- The tutorial must be easy to access from the library and the student web portals

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF VIKO

- Develop subject specific versions of VIKO
- Integrate VIKO with NTNU's E-learning system
- Continue to work towards making VIKO compulsory for new students at NTNU

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VIKO - Your guide to information literacy (Norwegian acronym for "Veien til InformasjonsKOMPetanse"), is available at <http://www.ub.ntnu.no/viko/>

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