



Wiki for Adobe Premiere

A collaborative approach to student video projects

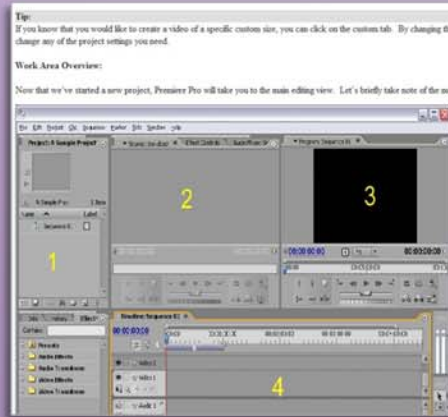
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Introduction

The use of wikis in classroom instruction has been shown to increase students' critical thinking and other performance skills (Clougherty and Wells, 2008; Wheeler et. al., 2008). Outside of the classroom, WPI faces the challenge of delivering non-curriculum-based instruction for a variety of applications. Knowledge of these applications can be required for coursework, but class time is rarely devoted to them.

One application that requires such instruction is Adobe Premiere, a popular video editing application that covers tremendous depths (see description below). Students frequently need to use only certain portions of its capabilities. WPI offers workshops on Adobe Premiere, however, staff have noticed that students still struggle with a need for just-in-time instruction, often at times when face-to-face work is not always possible due to tight deadlines.

As a response to this challenge, WPI Academic Technology Center staff created a wiki with pages based on students' needs: converting file formats, importing sound, quick editing, etc. This wiki was placed on the desktop of computers with the available software, and students were encouraged to edit the instruction, add pages, and discuss the challenges they face with the program. Although such instructions can also be placed on a static website, WPI felt that students would benefit from each other's experience and that, as John Seely Brown (1999) said, in an online collaborative environment, "learning becomes a part of action and knowledge creation".



What is Premiere? Why a Wiki?

Adobe Premiere is a full-featured and complex video editing application that is available in WPI's multimedia lab. The software is used by students and faculty to assemble video for assignments, presentations, and educational materials.

Given the technical nature of video editing, some amount of training is generally required to use the software, and WPI's Academic Technology Center offers workshops to meet this need. We offer training on the fundamentals of video editing and provide an overview of Adobe Premiere's basic functions.

However, the diverse and creative nature of video often presents specific and unique challenges that require additional knowledge. These kinds of needs typically fall under the category of "tricks and techniques"--there are a tremendous variety of possibilities, and they can not be covered completely in our workshops.

The Adobe Premiere Wiki was created to allow students to access a live document that could hold this sort of information and grow as students contributed to it. Our goal was to have basic how-to instructions posted, and to encourage students to access the Wiki and supplement it's information with ideas of their own.



Wiki Creation Process

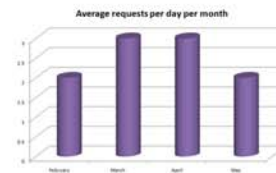
WPI created the wiki by combining existing documentation from training sessions. This was done by the Campus Media Specialist. A workstudy student was able to move the information into chapters. The Adobe Premiere Wiki differs from other documentation provided on the ATC's website due to its conversational nature. WPI hoped that this might contribute to a more inviting atmosphere for the students to edit the wiki.

Microsoft SharePoint was chosen as the wiki tool for this project for a number of reasons. Users would be able to use their Windows username and password to log in, and additional registration is not required.

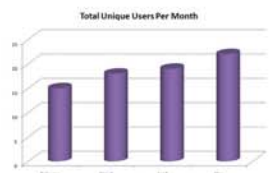
Additionally, the wiki was placed as a shortcut on the desktops of machines with Adobe Premiere, which are located in the Multimedia Lab in the Gordon Library. A blackboard in the room was decorated with artwork inviting users to view and edit the wiki.



Wiki Visit Results



Although there were a number of visits to the wiki, none of the visitors made any changes or edits to the pages.



Based on the effectiveness of wikis in classroom instruction (Clougherty and Wells, 2008; Wheeler et. al. 2008), we anticipated that visitors would not only visit the wiki, but would contribute their own thoughts, tips and tricks, thereby adding to the community of knowledge, as these studies indicated students had done within the classroom. To our surprise, this did not occur.

Discussion and Next Steps

We found that visitors to the wiki were more likely to treat the site as a webpage. Initial speculation about this cause include:

- The nature of Adobe Premiere. It is difficult to speculate (and therefore create a wiki page for) each thing that a visitor would want to do with the program.
- The number of expert users on campus. In order to document techniques, some background knowledge is required.
- The nature of wikis. Are students willing to offer their own ideas to the pages?

While we were pleased to be able to offer this important resource to students, our hopes of increasing the online community of knowledge were not met. These results have implications for designing informal instruction wikis in the future, and suggest to us that some of the following steps may be required.

Next Steps:

- Restructure pages to encourage examples of projects, file format questions, section on "I had this problem and found this solution."
- Add Discussion Section - anyone can ask, anyone can answer. "Not find what you're looking for? Click here to create a page on your topic..." This section could be monitored by the Campus Media Specialist, who would not be the exclusive contributor.
- Invite members of the community who are known expert users to contribute to pages on specific topics.

References

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Clougherty, R., & Wells, M. (2008). *Use of wikis in chemistry instruction for problem-based learning assignments: An example in instrumental analysis*. *Journal of Chemical Education*, 85(10), 1446-1447, 1448.

Wheeler, S., Yeomans, P., & Wheeler, D. (2008). *The good, the bad and the wiki: Evaluating student-generated content for collaborative learning*. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 39(6), 987-987-995.