

MINUTES
High Tech Center Training Unit Advisory Committee Meeting
High Tech Center Training Unit – De Anza Community College
Friday, February 6, 2004

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Brown	HTCTU, De Anza	HTCTU Director	present
Myra Lerch	Butte College	Region 1	teleconference
Thad Selmants	Sierra College	Region 2	present
Judy Lariviere	Skyline College	Region 3	not present
Kathleen Allen	Chabot College	Region 4	present
Laura Ingram	Merced College	Region 5	present
Laurie Vasquez	Santa Barbara City College	Region 6	present
Lyn Clemons	El Camino College	Region 7	present
Vacant	Vacant	Region 8	
Brian Brautigam	Victor Valley College	Region 9	present
Carl Fielden	Grossmont College	Region 10	present

STAFF/PRESENTERS

Peggy Tate	Chancellor's Office	not present
Bob Martinengo	ATPC	present

Staff Report

Sean Keegan gave the first report on WebAim training resource. The training material is divided into three sections: one for developers, one for coordinators and another for trainers. This web-based resource contains a 3 week training about web accessibility, assistive computer technology and how use that information. The examples consist of web pages, audio/video format, downloadable examples or short tutorials. This is a free service provided by the HTCTU and hosted through through the CVC3 website for faculty and staff of the California Community Colleges. The HTCTU website also provides a link to this resource under the web accessibility section.

Text Transcoder is a service that currently resides on a server at the HTCTU. This server-based tool takes a web page and turns it into a text-only view of the original page. Basically, its function is to give the individual a choice of navigating a website in the graphic-based version or the text-only version. Although this does not make the page any more accessible, it can help identify potential accessibility and usability errors that may occur. Access to the transcoder is possible by setting up a hyperlink on the web page which Sean also demonstrated.

HiSoftware is a company that makes web accessibility evaluation and repair tools as well as a server-based evaluation tool which checks the web site content of an entire campus. HiSoftware tools AccVerify and AccRepair in the Windows environment provide the user with the ability to web pages for accessibility and make the necessary corrections. The HTCTU has been able to secure a site license for the entire California community college system. All of the company's tools (AccVerify, AccVerify and AccMonitor) can be provided to every California community college at no cost. Additionally, the AccVerify license allows the download some additional tools at no cost. One of these is Hi-Caption. Hi-Caption is one the most common captioning tools for digital media and is similar to MagPie. Hi-Caption runs on Windows computers.

These HiSoftware tools check 508 compliance as well as several other system security parameters.

Carl Brown reported to the committee on several additional new resources provided by the HTCTU. These included:

TAEVIS Tactile Graphics CD. The CD was sent to all Disable Student Services directors and coordinators of the community colleges. The CD contains 5,000 images that can be turned into tactile graphics.

The HTCTU updated all 16 distributed network sites to OmniPage 14, and improved version of the scanning software originally received by the sites.

The HTCTU distributed another in its series both "Tools of the Trade" videos. This captioned DVD video described the use of Window-Eyes, a widely used screen reading program.

Carl Brown also discussed the concept of electronic books and the concept paper he had recently released to the California community colleges.

Chancellor's Office Update

Peggy Tate of the Chancellor's Office was not able to attend. Carl Brown discussed his recent trip to Sacramento to attend legislative briefings on the state of the budget. At that meeting, lobbyists, legislators and Chancellor's office staff stressed that the California community colleges were faring well in the current budget process. Conference participants stressed the importance of passing the bond measures soon to come before the voters. Conference participants projected a 25% overall reduction in funding for state services should the bonds fail to pass. There were also discussions by conference presenters about a possible 3% growth and 2% COLA. The conference featured a good deal of discussion about the notion of deferring 7,000 UC and CSU eligible students into the community college system and what that would mean in terms of displacing community college students who would otherwise be eligible.

ATPC Status Report

Bob Martinengo of the ATPC reported to the committee and thanked the HTCTU for the success of the class he did with HTCTU's Gaeir Dietrich on Using Alternate Media Resources. In January, ATPC received 772 requests for service. Next week, Bob will be traveling to Fresno, Region 5, which statistically accounts for 22% of the total requests they have received. Based on the ATPC program review, discussions are now underway for hiring a full-time Program Director. Carl Brown made several suggestions for responsibilities that might be included in the job description. He also suggested that the ATPC consider generating reports that described the frequency of requests for books by a specific title. Bob reported that the ATPC is in the process of responding to the Chancellor's Office based on the suggestions and recommendations of the Program Review.

Learning Disability Research Study

Carl Brown provided the committee with a summary and review of the preliminary report from the learning disabilities research study begun several months ago (see attached document). Additionally, Carl reviewed with the committee the initial findings from the report by Dr. Rose Asera from the effectiveness of Stacey Kayden's work with learning disability specialists at training presentations around the state (see attached document).

Proposed Statewide Conference

The HTCTU is considering the presentation of a one-day, statewide conference intended for California community college Disable Student Services faculty and staff. The conference is subject to budgetary availability and is still in its early planning stages.

Campus Issues

Laurie Vasquez reported to the committee that she spoke with a representative from the Community College Foundation who is in the process of negotiating licensing fees for Blackboard and Web CT which would include accessibility training as part of the training materials.

CVC3 announced a workshop called Hot Potatoes. Hot Potatoes is free software from Canada that allows for the creation of interactive web based exercises. There was also a discussion regarding 508 compliance for continuing education. According to Lyn Clemons of Region 7, there are two colleges in their area at which legal counsel has advised that they are considered a small business entity with 20 or fewer employees and do not have to comply with 508. The upcoming April Learning Disabilities Coordinators meeting was proud to the attention of the committee.

Handouts Provided

- Minutes, October 3, 2003
- WebAim sample brochure
- LIFT Text Transcoder
- HiSoftware Tools:Acc Monitor, AccVerify, AccRepair and Hi-Caption
- An Alternative to Traditional Book Sales on College Campuses, version 5
- LD Research Study Draft Report
- Using Technology for LD, Initial Observations of a Training Draft

Next Meeting: May 7, 2004, Friday