Creating a Personalized Web-Based Library Tour

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Abstract: Unlike other Web-based library tours, the Colorado State University Libraries Virtual Tour [http://manta.library.colostate.edu/tour/] permits customization options allowing different users to access information that suits their needs and experiences. Users may select various access points, including a pre-arranged order, an alphabetical list of stops, an arrangement by floor, or may assemble a customized list of tour stops. Each tour stop features a photo, a map, bulleted information, and links to in-depth information. While designed for maximum accessibility, the tour also offers optional high-bandwidth features like 360 degree panoramic views, audio segments, and JavaScript enhancements. A brief interactive quiz at the end of the tour checks for retention of basic information. This customization has numerous benefits including an interactive, more personalized tour experience for users and more classroom time devoted to library instruction, rather than physically navigating the building.