Eliminating Traditional Library Instruction: 
Requirements for the Successful Online Replacement

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Abstract: Interactive web applications offer academic libraries an effective platform for teaching basic library skills and can replace the traditional, and often unproductive, “one-shot” freshman visit to the university library. A new online headquarters for information literacy and library instruction under development at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Libraries will move beyond the earlier static web versions of bibliographic instruction and begin to engage the user in an active learning process through animation, feedback, and flexibility.

Successful web-based delivery of basic library skills instruction begins with careful planning, an organizational commitment to the technology, and attention to sound pedagogical practice. More specifically, the design should: 1) provide the user with the opportunity to interact with the lessons and receive immediate feedback; 2) allow for easy integration by faculty to course-related assignments; 3) be flexible and accommodate alternate learning styles; 4) move beyond simple mechanics of navigating a database or catalog; 5) bridge familiar experiences to new applications; and 6) provide clear and easy access to a librarian for further assistance.