Technology that Counts

Tools that Improve the Quality of Legal Research Instruction

Presented by:
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• Legal Research Teaching style at USD:
  – Re-tooling our teaching to build skills through practice
  – Students unable to put learning into practice
  – Improving our program through the addition of specific technology.
• Guideposts of Legal Education:
  – Best Practices in Legal Research Teaching
  – ABA outcome-based learning
Step 1: Choosing Subject Matter to Re-tool

- Legal research using secondary & primary resources
  - Included in all our legal research teaching (1L course, intermediate bootcamp, & ALR)
  - Most familiar to us, so we could focus on delivery, not brushing up our skills
  - What we want to convey is relatively static
    - can use for awhile with modest updates
Step 2: Identifying the Types of Content we teach

- Examining the Curriculum & Breaking down 3 major component groups:
  - Informational
  - Demonstration
  - Experiential
But, how to Emphasize Experiential learning?

- Legal research takes practice
- Practicing outside of class isn’t cutting it
- Bring practice time into classroom
- Treasure hunt vs. simulated research assignment
• Technology aids in moving the in-class emphasis to experiential learning

• Step 3: Match the type of content to the right technology
Experiential tech tools:

- Goal: maintain quality control & some semblance of order in the class room
- Goal: be able to seize on teachable moments with individuals & whole class

Technology:

- Software that allows viewing & sharing of student desktops
- TeamSpot
- Blackboard’s Collaboration Tool
- Growth area for tech
• **Informational tech tools:**
  - Goal: convey necessary information outside of class time
  - Goal: in a familiar, easy to use, accessible format
  - Goal: in discrete digestible units

  - **Technology:**
    - Tech that can convey both words & images
    - [Echo360](https://echo360.com) & [LibGuides](https://libraryguides.ucsd.edu)
• License/installation
• Compatibility of hardware/software
• File storage & security
• Inevitable glitches & learning curve
• Script – No script – Somewhere in between
  – Length (longer is harder to script)
• Face or just voice
• Screenshots vs. live demo
Demonstration tech tools:
- Goal: give a real, individually-paced, guided illustration of a research task
- Goal: outside of class time
- Goal: reusable
- Technology
  - Stable, accessible, browser-neutral, editable, audio/visual
  - Captivate
  - Echo360 (screenshots, live navigation)
  - Clips: video; Captivate; Echo360
• Similar to Informational Tech Tools
• Screenshots vs. live demo
• Video Capture Technology
• Captivate
• We were more efficient with our informational & demonstration content – less time than in-class lecture

• They actually watched them!!

• Class time = more fun!

• Students are engaged, asking questions, *seem* to really get it