The use of a virtual library tour to assist first year students in becoming library literate.

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Introduction

- "Despite the educational justification for library instruction, few campuses . . . welcome it unreservedly" (Breivik, 1982)

- It is becoming more challenging for academic library staff to offer library literacy courses.

- This is also true at the University of Pretoria which currently has thousands of first year students enrolled.

- Students attend a two hour introductory session on library literacy

- Impossible to take these students through the actual university library.

Virtual Library tour

- A virtual library tour was designed by the School of IT.

- Runs on a MySQL database.

- Consists of panoramic views in which the user experiences the feeling of being in the library.

- Every panoramic view is made up of 36 individual high resolution photos stitched together with Autostitch.

- Portals are created for navigation purposes enabling the user to "move" through pre-defined sections of the UP academic library.

Virtual Library tour statistics

- 3581 tours run from 28 January to 06 February 2013
- Average of 3-4 minutes to complete tour
- Locations visited 44 597 times

Live demonstration of Virtual Library Tour