

## TEACHING BIOLOGY BY MULTIMEDIA

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### Introduction

Recently, there has been a surge of interest in the creation of multimedia software. Interactive multimedia courseware is seen as an instructional alternative to the current teaching and learning methodologies employed in the present day classroom and training institutions. This is because of the immense benefit one can accrue from such a venture especially in meeting individuals' learning needs. However, it is strongly believed that the effectiveness of teaching aids, teaching and learning modules or courseware developed is very much dependent on the resource person being able to process the information and create appropriate presentations accurately and precisely (Bujang & Kusnan 1994). Thus, an attempt was made to transform customary lecture material into interactive multimedia presentations and study their effectiveness in disseminating knowledge at the undergraduate level.

### Materials and Methods

Topics in various fields of biology at the undergraduate level were selected. Computer multimedia was developed using Authware as the main authoring tool.

### Results and Discussion

Several selected topics in various fields of biology were prepared as multimedia courseware. Text, sound and animation were applied where appropriate. Interactive capability allows user to communicate dual way with the computer. The user is free at his/her own time to use the courseware. Repetition and speed is in the user's hand.

However, presentation of facts in text form needs to be reduced in the multimedia courseware. This is to avoid multimedia courseware becoming electronic books, whereby the user is mentally and physically constrained. Books to obtain more detailed facts and information should not be replaced.

### Conclusions

The concepts of self-paced learning and individualised teaching and learning could be well applied by multimedia presentation.

### References

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