

**Section: presenting an idea or experience**

**Title: CD Alternatives to Lectures**

Key Words: Mediator program, PowerPoint, CDs

Abstract: How effectively can microscopic recognition skills be taught off-campus? The experience of developing two interactive CDs to provide instruction in microscopic and interpretative skills in veterinary cytology will be presented. Microsoft Power Point and Matchware Mediator programs were used and their respective merits will be demonstrated. The evolution of the project from instructor based material through to student centred learning material will be discussed in the context of the availability of technology to generate high quality image, video and audio segments at low cost. Issues of user-interface, performance bandwidth, delivery medium and overall ease of use will be addressed in relation to the intended student audience of undergraduate on-campus and postgraduate distance students.

The value of a team approach involving subject specialist, instructional designer and multi-media technologist, as a means of achieving high quality teaching material, will be emphasised.

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