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.
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