

Minutes

NELUG Meeting

November 16, 2009

4:00pm – 6:00 pm

Host/Facilitator: Laura Gillenwater, Chairperson

Minute Taker: Cindy Kalberer, Recording Secretary

Attendees: Barry O'Brien, Cathy Weldon, Cindy Kalberer, Daniel McCluskey, Daryl Fleary, Dave Lapiere, Dave Tressler, Deanne Kelly, Doreen Telles, Eileen Giardina, Ellen St. Pierre, George Anastos, Harrin Zieve, Heidi Strangberg, Jeri Baker, Joe Casali, Laura Gillenwater, Lauren Adameak, Mario Cruz, Melanie Skarning, Michael Merline, Patti McConnell, Sandy Gagnon, Steve Johnson, Elissa Dorme, Karen Harris, Sally Cooper, Michael Weinrick, Sheila Owens

Agenda Topics

20 min. Welcoming Remarks and NELUG Business

Laura
Gillenwater

Laura welcomed participants, asked that we introduce ourselves via chat, and opened the meeting with the following NELUG business items:

- Diane Elkins offered one of her books to be raffled off at the end of this meeting.
- The technical problems at the last meeting were due to Adobe server issues that have been fixed. Hope to have no issues this meeting.
- NELUG has a web site and as such incurs two costs: 1) Maintaining the domain name and 2) Hosting. Cost totals \$65/year. Laura paid for it this year out of her pocket with assistance from a few NELUG members, totaling approximately \$39 of the \$65. This cost will come up again next year. We are asking for a membership donation of \$2 from each NELUG member to pay for the web site costs next year. If you want to chip in a bit more to help reimburse Laura for this year's expense that would be great, if you have not already done so! You can write Laura a check, send cash, or use her PayPal account: (Address: Sun Life Financial, 1 Sun Life Executive Park, SC4386, Wellesley Hills, MA, 02148; PayPal email address: lagil@comcast.net)
- Please Let Shawn Stiles (Email address: michael.shawn.stiles@pfizer.com) know if you would be willing to present at a future NELUG meeting and/or if you have ideas that you would like to see presented by another. The presentation/topic does not have to be Lectora-specific. It could be general eLearning related.

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70 min. Presentation – Demystifying Variables

- Daryl Fleary spoke with us about how to create variables, modify their values, and combine them for traditional and out-of-the-box uses. He defined variable as... “A value that can be changed or derived based on some condition.”
- Daryl showed us several examples and advised that variables can be used to:
 - Control content – Example: Show only applicable pages/chapters in a role-based course by modifying the variable “role” as Director, Manager, or Staff.
 - Control student – Example: Stop student from progressing if they have not completed required tasks.
 - Evaluate responses – Example: Customize questions and feedback.
 - Perform calculations – Example: Incorporate input fields to tally project management costs.
 - Advanced combinations – Examples: System simulations and games.
- Daryl advised that variables can be created automatically (e.g., by Lectora for questions) or custom-built with direct user input and forced entry actions.
- Laura will post Daryl’s full presentation to our NELUG web site.

20 min. Lectora Tips & Tricks

All

Q: How do you get an audio file to play throughout a course/advance with pages?

A: Laura knows an audio expert in NELUG but he’s not on the call tonight. She will follow-up and connect folks.

Q: Any advice for publishing to a CD? Can’t get it to work.

A: Try publishing to HTML and copying to CD.

Tip: Be careful with multiple choice question types... if the wrong radio button highlights after an answer selection, it might be caused by a duplicate answer! Debug mode didn’t find this.

Request: If you have any eLearning game ideas, please add them to the Lectora Lounge under the “Let’s Brainstorm Games” discussion thread. <http://lectoralounge.trivantis.com/forums/14/topics/8333>

10 min. Meeting Close

Laura
Gillenwater

Laura thanked all for attending. The winner of the book raffle is Michael Weinrick!!!!!! Congratulations Michael! Don’t forget to make your book selection and let Laura know.