



EXPLORING ONLINE RESEARCH METHODS

IN A VIRTUAL TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

Evaluation questions:

Please could you answer the following questions about the sample.

1. Are the activities and texts pitched at the right level?

Just right

2. Is there anything you do not understand? Please note page and problem.

No

3. Please could you comment on the sections of the sample:

Section	Comments
Introductory reading	
Learning activity 1 (Reading and note-taking)	I feel it would have been better for this activity to come up on its own page. Also I felt some of the reading were quite long – know I can't really pass comment because I am not sure of the context of module, and how long people are expected to take to completing the tasks
Learning activity 2 (Brainstorming advantages and disadvantages)	Not very exciting! And brainstorming is not always easy if you are sitting alone in front of your computer. I've seen other on-line packages where they give you a number of disadvantages and advantages and would ask you to move them into a table marked disadvantages and advantages. Technically probably more difficult to do, just a thought?
Reading (Advantages and disadvantages)	Fine Although I think it would be nice to see some of these advantages, e.g. you talk about flexible design it would be nice to see this in action, also you talk about data capture and transferring data straight into databases more explanation of this would be useful. Although again I don't know if that would be part of another lecture in this module
Reading (Sampling)	Fine

4. Do you think the personal reference lists are useful? How would you use them?

It took me a while to figure out how to use them but I did find them very good, only one problem with them is that I could not add text (comments) to them the if I clicked on them from the reference list, I had to add any information at the time of placing them in the list or go back to them in the body of the text and select them again.

I would use them to build up my own reference list, if using this technique and use them to search for the original article.

One interesting thing you could do and again I can't comment on the technicalities would be to link it to the online library database and give the option of looking at the article then. I apologise I just realised that you have done this, although the first one I tried Harris (1997) in Advantages didn't work

5. Is the font large enough?

Too small [delete options as appropriate]

6. Do you have any unanswered questions about the aspects of online questionnaires covered by the sample?

No

7. Are there any further comments or questions you would like to add?

I think some general comments on the length of time to complete the lecture, especially in learning activity one.

Only the ideas mentioned above, I imagine this is being aimed as a method for distance learning, distance learning can be a very frustrating and often quite tedious. So anything that could liven it up would be beneficial.

Otherwise very good