

MIT 522

Context and Conditions

Turtle Talk – Ask the Expert was completed as partial fulfillment of MIT 522: Organization & Management of Instructional Technology Programs. The project was completed during the Spring 2005 semester under the guidance of Dr. Mahnaz Moallem. This project was put together in order to use e-technology to provide a voice for conservation and education between North Carolina Aquarium staff, educators, and students that reached beyond the Aquarium's and schools' walls.

Scope

The objective of the project was to make a plan which would allow for the development of an e-program for the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher to use in conjunction with the state's schools. A change proposal was developed along with change management teams – the planning/advisory team, the implementation team, and the evaluation team. The change management model which was used was the unfreeze/change/refreeze model. The policies and standards which the Aquarium must adhere to were analyzed, along with the current technology resources and usage. Last, a technology plan was developed including an implementation plan, communication plan, infrastructure design, staff development, technology support, budget, and funding. The project was completed in one semester.

Role

This project was completed as a team of three graduate students. Each student met and worked with the Aquarium staff and contributed to the change proposal, resource analysis, and technology plan.

Reflection

MIT 522 was my very first class in the MIT program. Without having had the benefit of MIT 500 preceding it, I felt a little lost and a lot overwhelmed during that semester. Looking back, I am amazed at how much work was accomplished in such a small amount of time, especially since both of my team members were new to the program as well. If I were to participate in this project again, I would likely choose a team with members who were not taking the class as their first in the program. Our project probably left a lot to be desired since we did not have the MIT foundation to build upon; however, we definitely gave it our all and I walked away from the class with a wealth of knowledge I was able to relate to when I took MIT 500 the following semester.