Library Tour
Evolution at Brigham Young University

Michael Whitchurch
Virtual Services Librarian
Harold B. Lee Library
Introduction to BYU and Writing 150

• ≈ 30,000 FTE students
• ≈ 1,500 faculty
• ≈ 4,400 admitted freshmen (2013)
• ≈ 2,500 WRTG 150 students
What is Evolution?

- Natural Selection (survival of the fittest)
- Adapt/adjust to the environment
  - Who/what determines the academic environment?
    - Students
    - Technology
    - Campus administration/policy
    - Etc.
Tour Evolution Timeline

1961
- New library opens with guided tour available
- Time and personnel consuming
- Personalized information

1973
- Self-guided audio tour using cassette
- High maintenance with updating tour information
- New and exciting concept
- Required quiz completion

2000
- Self-guided audio tour using CD
- Same as audio cassette with newer technology
2005
• Self-guided audio tour using MP3
• Download to Personal device or check out at desk
• Same format at CD & Cassette Tape

2009
• Virtual online tour
• Little maintenance
• Easily updated
• Removes students from the library

2011
• iPod checkout (or use own device) with QR Codes
• Great in concept, weak Wi-Fi
• Issues required adjustments to implementation (quiz answers at Help Desks)
2013

- iPad with fixed predetermined stops
- Required stops & elective subject area
- Library tour stop location map
- Video content describing details of location
- Maintenance for changes
- Required Quiz
What’s next?

• Assessment
• Respond to course curriculum changes
• Technology innovations
• Student preferences
Michael J. Whitchurch, MLIS
Virtual Services/Learning Commons Librarian
Harold B. Lee Library
Brigham Young University
3325 HBLL
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-6345
michael_whitchurch@byu.edu