

## **More than just a page turner**

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The teaching and Learning Technology Programme (TLTP) Economics Consortium is an HEFC funded initiative developing over one hundred hours of courseware for teaching introductory economics. In designing this courseware one of the main ideals is that it should be "More than just a page turner" but at a competing package demonstration Toolbook was dismissed as "An excellent page turner". So, who is right?

### **Ensuring student interaction**

Why interact ?

It is intended that the courseware currently being developed should be more than just a replacement for a text book, it should give comparable depth of support to that provided by a tutor. In this way it is hoped the package can be of more use than just a text book.

Who is the package intended for ?

By careful consideration of the target audience it is hoped that the package will become more relevant and suited to that audience. By consideration of the target audience likely stumbling blocks and responses to sections of the courseware are revealed, which can then be incorporated into the original design to produce a package that has a natural look and feel.

Okay, what do I do first ?

The first page is always the worst - at least until a student gets on to the next page. By starting slowly and building up it is possible to impart more information. To ensure the student knows what to do, some possibilities are : status bars, professor fields, pop ups and cursor changes.

So, what do I do now ?

How to study a topic without having to turn over the page and why one page is best.

But I don't understand !

What to do if a student doesn't understand. Tutorials, referencing and examples  
Why it is easier to admit ignorance to a computer than to your tutor.

But what if ?

How to include advanced topics, branching out and exceptional cases.

What do you mean, starfish ?

A student's natural tendency to destruct test courseware and how to overcome it.