



Screencasting for Academic Libraries

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Abstract

The time plays a very important role in the modern information society and the librarians of today are playing the role of catalyst in providing the information in minimum possible time to the library patrons. In case of online resources video tutorials or screencasts are being prepared and collected in advance to guide the user in searching the information from various databases. The scholars and students are instructed through screencasts that where to click and what steps are to be followed in searching the information in digital era.

Keywords: Screencasts, Screen casting tools, Jing, CamStudio, Krut, Screencastle

1. Introduction

A screen cast is a digital video recording that captures actions taking place on our computer desktop including mouse movement, text entry, scrolling and movement from page to page. Screen casts can be recorded with or without audio. In simple words screencasting is the act of recording the activities on the computer screen, any action user makes on the desktop is recorded as a video. Screen casts can be prepared for tutorials, advertisements, movies, training videos and for many other demonstrative activities. General applications of screencasting include:

1. Screencasting is used for orientation of new product or software.
2. Teaching a particular topic to the students irrespective of place.
3. It is used for selling a new product
4. Communication of facts, ideas and opinion across the audience.

2. Applications of Screencasting in Academic Libraries:

1. Instructions

Instructions are very important for the library patrons in using the various services of the library, rules to be followed in the library in this regard screencasts are very usefull for preparing the short video tutorials. Various university libraries are using screencasts for instructing the library users.

2. Training of Library Professionals

Staff training is a very important for the smooth functioning of the library specially when there is shift from one software to another. It is very simple to train the manpower by hosting the screencasts by using web 2.0 applications such as blogs, wikis and other social or professional networks.

3. Reference Service

Most of the university libraries are using screen casts as the reference tool. Frequently asked questions of the library users are answered by the librarian by using the videos which will save the time of the librarian and the library user.

4. Tutorial and Videos For Searching Information Resources

Now a day's most of the University libraries are hosting tutorials on their library websites. The screen casts of almost all the e resources is prepared and is demonstrated to the library users these tutorials generally run between 4-5 minutes. The main moto of the libraries behind creating these screen casts is to guide the user how to search the scholarly article from a database in minimum possible time.

Preparing of the screen cast requires some video capture software and a microphone. you can either download the screencasting software or use the webbased service to capture the audio and video tutorials or files into a video that can be shared with the user community.

3. Some of the Easy to Use Screencasting Tools



Fig 1: Screen O Matic

ScreenCast O Matic is a screencast tool which have both desktop and web based version. Over 30,000 recordings are made every day. Java is required to be installed for running this tool on your system. Screen O Matic is available in both free and paid versions. However the free version has limited

features, only the 15 minutes recording limit is allowed. It also provides the facility of free video hosting and allow you for both screen and webcam recording. It also facilitates to publish your recording directly to the YouTube.

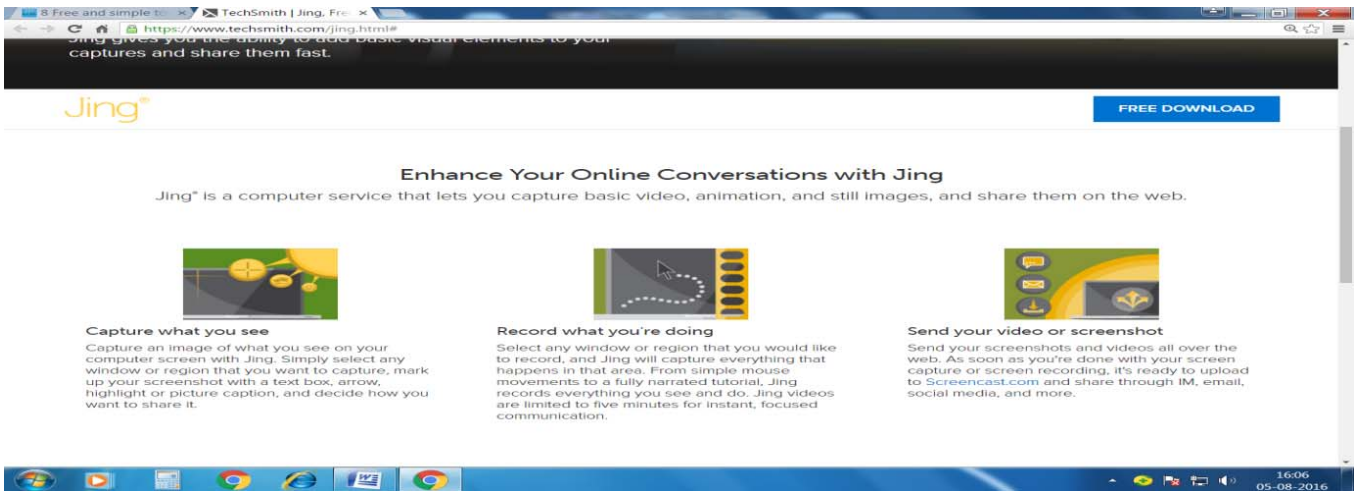


Fig 2: JING

Jing is a simple screencasting tool for creating the images and videos of desktop activities and to share them around the globe instantly and easily. Zing is available in both free and

paid versions. Five minutes of screen recording is allowed in free jing but the premium version offers many more features for screencasting.



Fig 3: Camstudio

CamStudio is a open source software which is 100% free to download and use for personal and commercial projects. It allow the users to record the screen and to make the

demonstrations and tutorials for educational and other purposes.

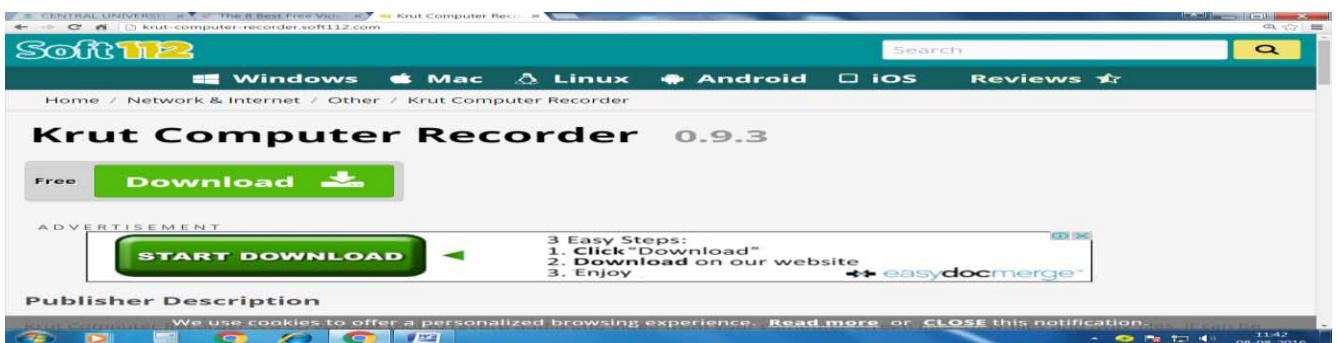


Fig 4: Krut Computer Recorder

Krut is a screencasting tool written in java and works in almost every operating system. Krut records movie files, sounds and selected parts of your system. Some of the

important features include timer controlled recording, preview of ongoing recording and many more.

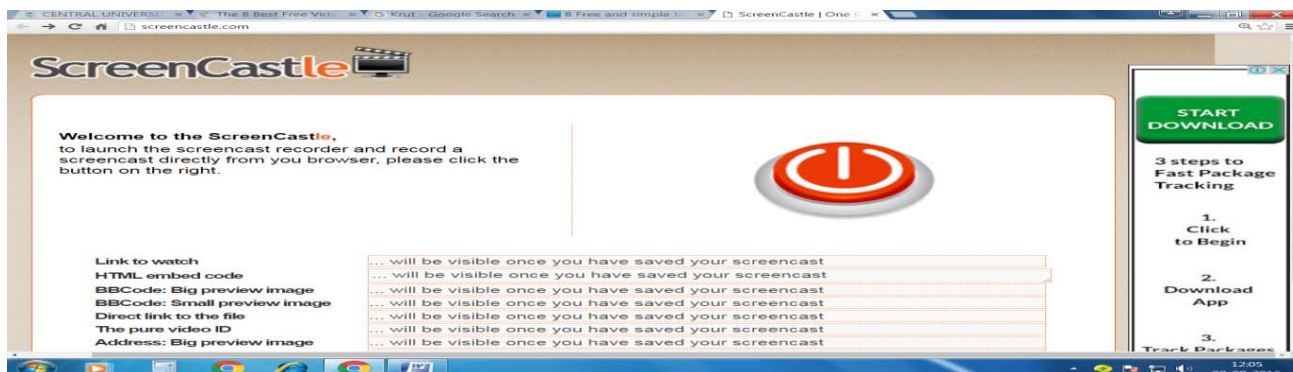


Fig 5: Screen Castle

Screen castle is a very easy screen casting tool, it works on java. After finishing the screen recording the user is provided with a code to share your tutorial with others.

4. Conclusion

The Academic Institutions especially the universities are shifting from print educational resources to electronic resources. The academic libraries of today are subscribing more and more electronic resources but the fact is that they are underutilized. Proper orientation and guidance is very use full in the libraries. It is recommended that libraries must go for screencasting of all the electronic resources and host them at their library website. This will help the library user to search the information of his interest. The major benefit of the screencasting is that user will go through the video tutorial irrespective of place and time. the library patron will understand the things better as the screencasting is the digital recording of the computer screen showing every action of the curser and the steps followed in searching the article.

5. References

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