EdTech Toolkit: Creating Browser Based Interactive Keys and Documents in Class

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Interactive browser-based documents have many uses in biology teaching: branching keys, If/Then narratives, ecosystem summaries, etc. Participants will learn how to use two free cross-platform tools to create interactive HTML documents they can view with any browser. Twine is a standalone cross-platform program in which create individual pages of text and media, then link them using page name tags to create the desired narrative paths. jQuery Mobile is a feature-rich Javascript framework used in interactive mobile sites that easily adapts to classroom use. jQuery Mobile is a very simple, approachable introduction to HTML coding because it uses cut-and-paste blocks of HTML. It is well within the capabilities of novices, and students can continue building on what they learn. Neither tool requires IS support, so they can be incorporated into a course with minimal effort. Workshop participants will leave with two starter HTML documents, one built in Twine, and one with jQuery Mobile. (Participants should bring their own laptops to work on documents.)

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