



**International Electronic Journal of
Mathematics Education**

Volume 4, Number 3, October 2009

www.iejme.com

Special issue on “Research and Developments in Probability Education”

Manfred Borovcnik & Ramesh Kapadia (Eds)

“Rules” for Navigating between the Documents – Updated comments

Here some new hints to deal with navigating between pdf documents within Mac world will be published if we know about better possibilities to deal with that problem.


“Rules” for Navigating between the Documents – As contained in the IEJME documents




A key decision for electronic publishing is whether to encode documents in html or pdf. The portable document format has the advantage that a huge percentage of the layout of documents is really preserved independently of the browser used. However, for linking with documents, there are drawbacks. It is not possible to link from any document to any position of another document. Moreover, the effort to establish all the documents in html is enormously higher than for pdf; the appearance of a document may also differ in the various browsers used to read in the internet – thus the decision of IEJME was for pdf format.

For the PC world, Adobe Flashplayer 10 is advised as the plug-in to read pdf documents; as with other plug-ins, some of the links might not work. Within Mac world, the browsers have such plug-ins already integrated. However, in testing the links, some problems were reported especially when plug-ins were used to view the pdf documents instead of the built-in preview. The problem is that in Mac world pdf documents are often *downloaded* instead of *viewed in the browser*. Of course, a downloaded document will become isolated and lose all its links. We cannot solve such issues for all browsers but some help may be found [here](#) for Safari, or [here](#) for

Firefox and Mac.

Cell Press and Elsevier have launched a project called [Article of the Future](#) dealing with multi-media. To facilitate such projects, the computer world needs to work constructively together to solve the problems emerging from the fact that there are PCs and Macs. It is similar to issues discussed above about native English speakers and others.

An annex of all appendices gives an overview of extra materials like glossaries or movies connected to a paper. To navigate between the pdf documents, [links](#) can be used, which are encoded in a simple blue colour with no underline (the underline is a strong highlighting and would interfere with the text). If the reader follows a link to another text document, a link back is supplied by an arrow  with a descriptor like [To the article](#) (Or, [To the glossary](#)). However, as it is, such a link always can lead only to the *first* page of the linked document.

Thus, for convenient navigation back to the same place from where one was linked to the extra document, it is advisable to use the *previous button* of Adobe or the browser; these buttons look like ; it could also be used in the opposite direction to the next open document ; such an icon cannot be integrated in the text as it can never be programmed to be a “variable” link, i.e. a link to the previous document. Sometimes – for no obvious reason – such a previous button has to be used several times until one gets back to the starting point in the original document. The arrow is sometimes misleading. Yet there is a reason to add it. A document may be retrieved by a search function in the Internet; in such a case this  sign leads to its parent document. Otherwise it would remain an orphan. To get back to the main document from Powerpoint animations, it is best to use the ESC button of the keyboard.

Feedback is welcome if the reader notices that some links do not work, or a movie will not open to play. Perhaps we can fix the issue, or at least we will be able to learn for the next time. On the Internet many issues that work on the level of PC or Mac, are differently organized; if we get sensitized to it, we can improve. Feedback is also requested on the effectiveness and desirability of the interactive approach we have taken – this should be sent to the first-named editor who has undertaken most of the technical work, with able support from technical colleagues at the University of Klagenfurt.