Alpha Evaluation of
Citation Nation's Prototype

Affective Considerations

- Users are challenged with a quiz which should increase the motivational factors of the program. In the prototype there are no breadcrumbs or indications to the users where they are in the program which may negatively impact the users affectively.

- I think a motivational statement on the Title screen for the program would help to make users more interested in continuing.

- Affectively, I think the users will become frustrated by the Exit and Help buttons which don't return the users back to the screens where they were at when clicking on those buttons.

Interface

- Clean, intuitive and unobtrusive, I think that the topic buttons should have a rollover effect to help the user identify that they are clickable elements.

- Breadcrumbs would be helpful to allow the user to identify where they are in the program.

- Marking subjects in the APA manual with page numbers, "p23", in the titles of your screens is not intuitive to most users.

- Rollovers on the "Title" don't appear to work correctly. When rolling over the running head a description of the title appears. There should also be an instruction to let users know that they can rollover the components for the screen for more information. Also other pop-ups appear on that page for no apparent reason – rollovers don't appear to be synched correctly with the page elements.

- The back button appears on the "Directions" page, the "Help" page, the "Objectives" page, the "Menu" page, the "Title Page" page, the "Running Head" page, the "Running Head Quiz" page, and the "Abstract Page" page but has no functionality.
- It might be better to put the APA section numbers under the APA book graphic and read e.g. "Section 2.01", I think this would make it clearer to the users that the number is a reference to a section of the APA book.

Navigation

- I think that it would be better for the forward and back buttons to begin with the hollow white-filled look and change to the color-filled look when rolled over.

- When clicking on exit button I am taken to the exit screen and asked "are you sure you want to exit – yes or no", when I choose "no" I am taken to the "Abstract Quiz" screen instead of the screen where I originally clicked on the exit button. This is confusing to user as it leaves them at a destination previously unseen which may negatively impact users affectively. If the user clicks "yes" when asked are they sure they want to exit then they receive a blank screen, there should be an instruction here to click on the browser's close button.

- The back button appears on the "Directions" page, the "Help" page, the "Objectives" page, the "Menu" page, the "Title Page" page, the "Running Head" page, the "Running Head Quiz" page, and the "Abstract Page" page but has no functionality.

- When clicking on the Help button and navigating to the help screen the users only choice to continue is to click on the Next button to navigate back to the screen where they were when they clicked to get help. Your program should remember what screen the users was on when the clicked on the Help button and return them to that screen when the users is done reading the Help screen.