Straight Quotes versus “Smart Quotes” in Vista’s HTML Creator

This document addresses an issue related to the use of quotes in Vista's HTML Creator.

If you are typing quotation marks in an HTML Creator window, the default settings makes them straight quotes versus smart quotes.

Unfortunately, what happens sometimes with straight quotes is that quotation marks show the HTML code (also referred to as HTML “tags”) in the HTML Creator window, rather than the actual formatted quotes. This becomes evident when a user toggles the HTML Creator on and off using the radio button.

This behavior is known in some other course management systems as well. One way to get around this issue is to copy and paste from Word any text that requires quotation marks. First however, one must change a setting in Word to ensure that the type of quotation marks that are pasted in are “smart quotes”.

Smart quotes look like this: “ ” (slanted)
Straight quotes look like this: " "

In order to make Word treat quotes as smart quotes, one needs to make a setting change in Word. Fortunately, this feature can be turned on or off easily. The steps to make the setting adjustment are:

1. From the Tools menus, select AutoCorrect Options
2. 2. Click on the AutoFormat As You Type tab
3. 3. Under Replace as you type, check or uncheck "Straight quotes" with “smart quotes”

For more information on changing the appearance of quotation marks:
http://wordprocessing.about.com/cs/quicktips/qt/smartquotes.htm