

# Plone in Education: A Case Study of the Use of Plone and Educational Content

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## What is OpenCourseWare?

- Makes available course materials from higher ed institutions to all
- Used for informal learning environments
- Supplements existing course materials
- Allows professors to share materials

## What it is not

- Not for credit
- No access to professors, instructors

## MIT, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The birth of OpenCourseWare

## Quote



“We hope that in sharing MIT’s course materials, and our experience thus far with MIT OpenCourseWare, we will inspire other institutions to openly share their course materials.”

Charles M. Vest, Former President, MIT

## Who is Participating?

- MIT, John's Hopkins, Notre Dame
- Many other Universities across the World in Japan, China, Taiwan, Spain, UK, Netherlands and

more

- Universities in the State of Utah, Utah State University

## OpenCourseWare Consortium



<http://ocwconsortium.org>

## Ubiquitous

The goal is to make OpenCourseWare as common as having a web site at higher education establishments.

## Achieving the Goal

- Making it as easy as possible
- Lowering the cost of participating in OCW
- Supporting Best Practices, and making sure materials are high quality
- Minimizing the legal risk of publishing materials in an open manner
- Maximizing access to materials through accessibility

## Barriers

- High cost of developing courses
- Infrastructure needed

- Rolling your own vs. Off the shelf
- Technical Resources (e. g. software, systems, sysadmin)

## For Example

- MIT OpenCourseWare grant \$30million+
- Built on proprietary software
- Course Materials move through three separate systems
- Large production team

## The question of Copyright



- Creative Commons Licensing
- Open Content as well as Open Source
- Averting Risk

## Solution

If OpenCourseWare is to succeed, a better way of doing things is needed.

## What is eduCommons?

- An OpenCourseWare management system
- A place to publish course materials
- Built on top of Plone
- Open source software (GPL)
- Freely available (just like Plone)

## What eduCommons is Not

- eduCommons is not an LMS
- Does not track student grades
- Does not provide access to instructors

## Why Plone?

- Multi-Lingual
- Accessibility

- Feature Set (workflows, user roles, built in authentication)
- Rapid Development
- Community support

## Key Features

- Can track accessibility and copyright clearance
- Can bulk upload content using zip archives
- Can import content from Blackboard, WebCT
- Supports workflows and user roles for developing content
- Has comprehensive copyright licensing engine

## Additional Features

- RSS Feeds
- Built in bookmarking for end users
- Embedded Machine Readable Licenses
- As easy to use as editing a blog

## Demo

- Creating a new course
- Uploading content

## Who is using eduCommons

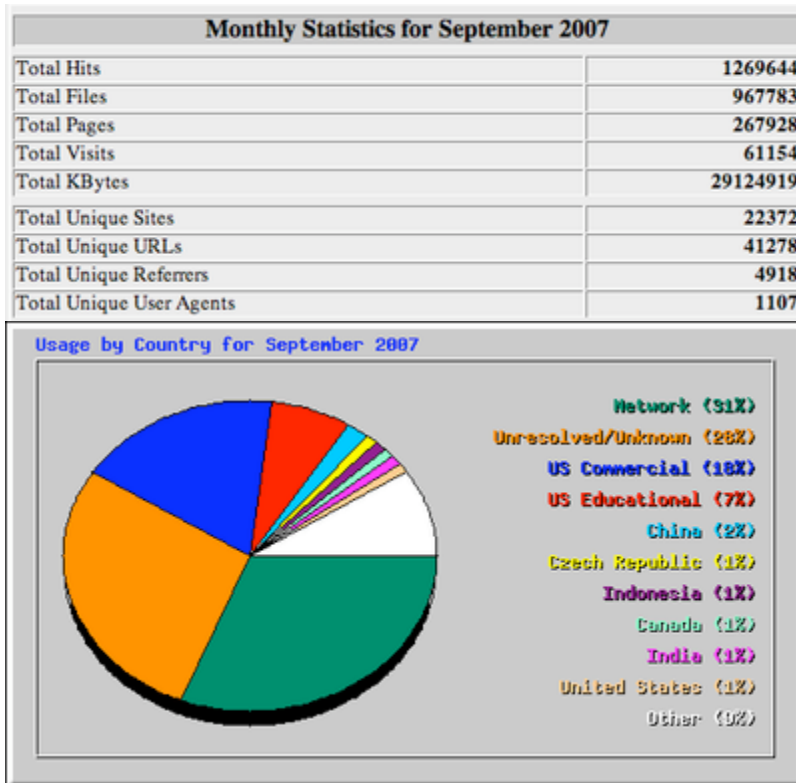
### eduCommons Adopters

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The following is a partial listing of eduCommons-based OpenCourseWare sites from around the world.

[College of Eastern Utah](#)  
[Escuela Nacional de Salud Pública \(Cuba\)](#)  
[Korea University](#)  
[Kyung Hee University](#)  
[Novell](#)  
[Open OCW](#)  
[Open Universiteit Nederland](#)  
[Universidad Carlos III](#)  
[Universidad de Monterrey](#)  
[Universidad de Sevilla](#)  
[Universidad de Cantabria](#)  
[Universidad de Alicante](#)  
[Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia \(UNED\)](#)  
[Universidad Politécnica de Madrid](#)  
[Universitat Oberta de Catalunya](#)  
[University of Notre Dame](#)  
[University of Tsukuba](#)  
[University of Utah](#)  
[Utah State University](#)  
[Weber State University](#)  
[Western Governors University](#)  
[Wheelock University](#)

## eduCommons at Utah State University



### Other Uses

- OOPS - Chinese Translation
- Site copies for 3rd World locations without or with limited internet access

### Higher Education

What have we learned working with OCW in higher education?

### Key Points

- Working with higher ed institutions takes time
- Dealing with the "Not built here" mentality
- Fitting into existing infrastructures

### Key Points (continued)

- Expertise of people using and building courses
- Cathedral vs Bazaar
- Complimenting other open source software instead of competing

## **The Future**

- More rich support for multimedia
- podcasting, video
- Convergence between LMS and OCW management systems
- Lowering the cost of OCW even further

## **Questions?**

## **Thank You**

<http://cosl.usu.edu/projects/educommons>