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Unlocking the Gates

How and Why Leading Universities Are Opening Up Access to Their Courses

Taylor Walsh for Ithaka S+R

With a foreword by William G. Bowen

"I have been on record for some time as being skeptical about the likely effects on productivity in higher education of various new technologies.... But the evidence that Walsh presents about the work at Carnegie Mellon has caused me to re-think my position.... Unlocking the Gates is a splendid introduction to a fascinating and fast-changing world. Unless I am badly mistaken, over time all sectors of higher education will be affected in one way or another by what are truly transformational changes in the way knowledge is created and disseminated. Now that increasing numbers of universities, including some of the most prestigious, are using technology to let the world into their precincts, it will never again be possible to lock the gates."

—from the foreword by William G. Bowen

Over the past decade, a small revolution has taken place at some of the world's leading universities, as they have started to provide free access to undergraduate course materials—including syllabi, assignments, and lectures—to anyone with an Internet connection. Although they don't offer credit or degrees, efforts like these are beginning to open up elite institutions—and may foreshadow significant changes in the way all universities approach teaching and learning. *Unlocking the Gates* is one of the first books to examine this important development.

Taylor Walsh writes on behalf of Ithaka S+R, a not-for-profit strategy and research service that supports innovation in the academic community.

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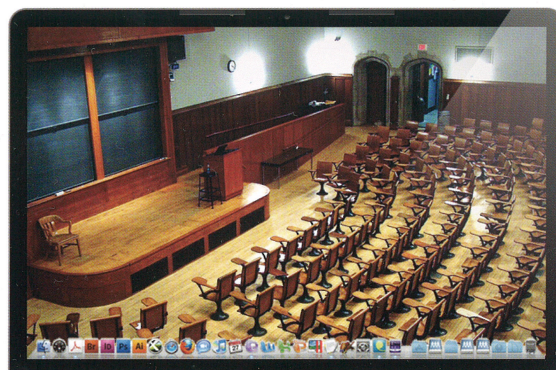
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TAYLOR WALSH