



The **UC Berkeley Web Site Design Project** is a collaborative effort to create web sites of instructional support material that are well designed, consistent, and have some degree of portability and longevity. The project also aims to identify important issues in creating and managing course web sites, provide public guidelines for good web site design, and post reviews of various tools and products. The project involves a collaboration between student web designers and a faculty member from UC Berkeley's School of Information Management & Systems (SIMS), the campus-wide Information Systems & Technology's Instructional Technology Program, and faculty from various campus departments. Thirty course web sites are currently being supported with an average of 100 students in each course.

Course Site Design & Editing

Instructors are provided with expert assistance in building web-based resources for their classes. Our web designers help post course descriptions, syllabi, class readings, bibliographies, and assignments; create electronic mailing lists and links to other resources on the web, including online encyclopedias and journals; maintain records of what takes place in class, preserve online material so it can be used in future terms; and ensure portability of course web sites so that they continue to work even when moved to another server.



Navigation & Site Mapping

The web-design team has considerable expertise in organizing the content of both large, lecture courses and small seminars. We provide valuable advice and examples that assist instructors in choosing the navigation and site organization that will make their sites usable.



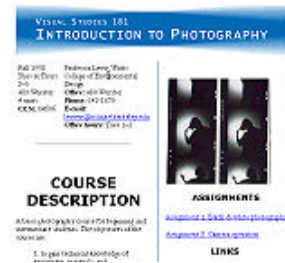
Content Planning & Organization

We provide instructors with help in modifying course content from their current print medium, slides, and PowerPoint presentations to the Web.



Images

We have been supporting an increasing number of image-intensive course web sites, particularly in the Art History and History departments. The web-design team helps process large collections of images by developing generic scripts for DeBabelizer, creating thumbnails and differently sized images while also assessing new image management software packages. The web-design team has posted guidelines for the creation and publishing of images to web sites.



Audio

The web design team experimented with using RealAudio files on a course web site to deliver audio recordings of each class lecture. We started with a 270-student lecture course on "Existentialism in Film and Literature." The professor had been recording his lectures on cassette tapes, which students could only listen to in the library. We built his lectures into his course web site so that all 270 students could listen to the lectures at their own convenience and in their own space. We found that the digitizing of audio files was very time-consuming, and are offering training and guidelines for professors and their GSIs to use.

Archiving & Version Control

Most large classes are taught every other semester. We are developing a flat-file database to archive sites so that they can be retrieved when the course is taught again. Additionally, we have established a standardized method of version control so that it is easy to determine from the file name if a site is the most current version. Additionally, we are collaborating with an on-campus museum group to archive images in their image database. Most importantly, our system will allow site designers to retrieve any information about a class, even if they didn't create the site themselves.

Security

The web design team is very conscious of the copyright issues being faced by universities. When a professor is using material whose provenance is questionable, we use a password-protection or IP address checking to constrain access to the course web site.



Template Development

As the demand for course web sites increases, the need to make the process scalable also increases. We are developing ways to work with alternate platforms for course web sites, e.g. WebCT and IBM's LearningSpace. Additionally, we are creating templates to simplify the process while still producing sites that respond to the individual needs of the departments, professors, and courses.

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