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HarvardX
Supporting faculty innovation in the use of technology in teaching and research
harvardx.harvard.edu

February 2014

welcome

With data and derring-do, comes...

- the release of the Harvard-MIT research working papers based upon 17 online courses run on the edX platform (the papers can be downloaded here and a talk on the topic is also available);
- Harvard faculty continuing to break the mold of online and hybrid learning;
- the arrival of a dozen interns to HX HQ from the Grad School of Education’s TIE program to help conduct analysis on how about how MOOCs differ across providers and platforms; and
- experiments running here in Cambridge (one course, three flavors) and, independently in St. Louis via a start-up looking to lower the barriers to employment in high tech.

We are pleased to report the latest HarvardX team updates …

- Dan Levy from the Kennedy School is serving as co-chair of the HarvardX Research Committee; and
- HarvardX Wednesday Workshops are back with topics ranging from tips and tricks on the edX platform to social media tactics. Want to present? Email Meghan McCormack.

what's new

- Traditional metrics are not a good way to evaluate online courses
  "The story of MOOCs is not going to be told with conventional statistics borrowed from brick-and-mortar classroom models."

- Combating the MOOC syllabus blues
  Strategies for migrating/rethinking course reserves and other kinds of materials for online courses without running afoul of copyright laws.

- What makes HarvardX different?
Find out by celebrating Chinese New Year, boosting your Bible studies, and getting anything but a routine check-up on healthcare (all examples of how Harvard is advancing learning.)

data & impact

Enrollments/Registrants (as of January 14, 2014)

- edX: Unique users: 1,756,031 / Course enrollments: 3,342,733
- HarvardX: Registrants: 914,271 (19 open, current, & past courses and modules)

Improving teaching and learning on campus and beyond

- Moving beyond an experiment. The Law School and Berkman Center are pushing online and offline boundaries in the sequel to CopyrightX.

Advancing educational research

- Listen to the Harvard EdCast. HarvardX Menschel research fellow Justin Reich examines the effectiveness of open online courses through quantitative and qualitative research.

- HarvardX Insights are online. A collection of interactive visualizations of HarvardX data across a variety of metrics are now available.

Expanding access

- The edX open access platform keeps opening doors. The World Economic Forum will launch Forum Academy, an online portal for Forum-produced courses; Dartmouth became the latest member (and Ivy) to join the X Consortium; and edX is working with the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets and Control and the State Department to ensure that no one is blocked from taking courses on the platform.

questions & answers

How can I book time in the new Hauser Digital Studio?

The Hauser Studio is available to faculty who want to produce instructional materials. Priority will be given to faculty working in active HarvardX projects or those creating materials for classroom use in the near future.

You can request time by filling out an online request form.

events & media

Upcoming events, past events

- HX Wednesday Workshops (all at 125 Mt Auburn, 4th floor at 3 p.m.)
- 2/16: Sean Lip from Google discussing Oppia, a new learning feedback mechanism. More info.
In the media

- The Harvard-MIT working papers generated quite a bit of buzz, including coverage in: Chronicle of Higher Education; Huffington Post/Hechinger Report; GigaOM; Bloomberg News; The Crimson; Harvard EdCast; Campus Technology; BostInno; Forbes; Degree of Freedom; and even a tweet from Chelsea Clinton.

- Thousands Enroll in Harvard Divinity School's First edX Course (The Crimson, January 30, 2014)

- Harvard Bible edX Course 'Early Christianity: The Letters of Paul' Draws 22,000 Students from 180 Countries-And Counting (Signposts02.com, January 28, 2014)

- Learn to be a computer programmer. It’s free. Really. (St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 17, 2014)

- ChinaX (Germ Magazine, January 14, 2014)

- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) lessons for business leaders (Boston Globe, January 14, 2014)

- CS50 ftw (Wolf's Little Store Blog, January 7, 2014)

- HSPH edX courses help train workers in India (January 6, 2014)

- Piramal opts for online course to train medical staff (The Hindu, January 1, 2014)

- Harvard opens China Course (CCTV, January 2, 2014)

end quotes

"Professor Bol, I very much hope to sit down with you one day and talk about Lao Tzu. I believe there is more there than you see. But I am here to tell you that you are a rock star. You are touching many people’s lives and reminding them that there are no limits to learning. And there are no boundaries to learning communities. And you are bringing out the best in what technology can do for learning."
- Shannon Meade, GERM Magazine

"I just watched my First Year of HarvardX video. I give partial credit to my edX experience for pushing me to enroll at the Harvard Extension School to pursue my ALB. Thanks for all the work you and your colleagues are doing to make quality education more accessible."
- Niki, ALB (Bachelor's of Liberal Arts) candidate at Harvard Extension School

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