Joomla as a Tool for Hybrid or Online Course Development

March 24, 2012

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Objectives

• Create online photo gallery and image quizzes for West Gulf tree species (Dendrology)
  – Allow use for teaching and outreach
• Create online multimedia silviculture textbook to ‘flip’ the classroom
  – Allow use for teaching and outreach
Online Resources Appropriate? Survey

- Objective: ensure online resources will suit SFA forestry students prior to development
- In-class anonymous survey administered in dendrology Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
- N = 52

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Survey Results: Computers

- 65% own or rent a laptop only
- 8% own or rent a desktop only
- 25% own or rent both
- 98% own or rent a computer
- 35% mainly use on-campus computer labs
Survey Results: Internet

• 94% have internet at home
• 46% have high-speed cable
• 31% have high-speed DSL
• 17% didn’t know what type
Survey Results: Internet

• When asked how comfortable they were using computers and the internet:
  – 63% VERY COMFORTABLE
  – 35% SOMEWHAT COMFORTABLE
  – 2% VERY UNCOMFORTABLE
Survey Synopsis

• They have computers with high-speed internet access, and are comfortable using them
• Open source free-ware Content Management System
• PHP scripting language
• MySQL database language
• EVERYTHING stored in a database
• Graphical user interface
Content Management System

CMS

Webpage

CSS

HTML

- CMS: Content Management System
- CSS: Cascading Style Sheets
- HTML: HyperText Markup Language
Joomla Interface

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Joomla Examples

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Joomla Examples
Joomla Backend Interface
Joomla Backend Interface

![Joomla Backend Interface Screenshot](image)

**Article Manager**

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Joomla Backend Interface

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Joomla Output
Joomla Extensions

- Extends capabilities
- Most free, some $$$
- Photo galleries
- Quizzes, surveys
- Gradebooks
- LMS
Joomla in Class: Dendro Example

- Link to resources
- Teach how to use

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Joomla as Study Tool / Outreach Resource

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Joomla Before Class: Silviculture Example

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Joomla Pros

• You are in control
• Very flexible
• Outreach and teaching
• Many free or cheap extensions
• Steep learning curve, but easy maintenance
Joomla Cons

• Need HTML, CSS experience
• Support is hit or miss
• Foreign language documentation
• FERPA constraints?
• Copyright issues?
• ADA requirements?
ADA Compliance
Joomla vs. LMS

- Bookkeeping
- Quizzes
- Access
- Class size
- Outreach

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Questions

• Email: stovalljp@sfasu.edu

• Joomla websites:
  – Dendrology: http://forestry.sfasu.edu/faculty/jstovall/dendro/
  – Homepage: http://forestry.sfasu.edu/faculty/jstovall/home/