

2020 OCW Impact Report





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Unlocking Knowledge,
Empowering Minds.

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Reflections



Dear Friend of OCW,

The challenges we have all faced over the last eight months have been extreme, ranging from the loss of loved ones to tragic consequences of long standing inequities and injustice, to the emotional toll of uncertainty and isolation in our daily lives.

Amidst all of this, we are humbled and inspired to witness the amazing resilience of the millions of students, teachers, and independent learners using OpenCourseWare, and prioritizing learning. We are inspired by the [teaching and learning communities that have come together](#) and the resolve of people who continue to pursue knowledge even as they are isolated. Teaching and learning is what we do, together, even when we are apart. Hearing about your experiences doing so during these most trying circumstances is uplifting.

We are also profoundly thankful to you and everyone who supported OCW. Whether you made a financial donation, used or shared our site with your network and communities, or told us your story—we are grateful to count you as part of our growing learning community.

As we head into a new academic year, we wanted to look back and share some of the high points as well as a snapshot of where OCW is headed.

Thank you again for supporting OCW and learning with us.

With best regards,

Krishna Rajagopal

Dean for Digital Learning

Curt Newton

Director

MIT OpenCourseWare



MIT OPENCOURSEWARE: PART OF A GLOBAL EFFORT

The [MIT Office of Open Learning](#), led by Vice President for Open Learning Sanjay Sarma, amplifies the many educational innovations and initiatives across MIT, and makes them available to learners and educators worldwide through our digital and blended learning opportunities, and visionary learning science research.

Through targeted efforts in teaching, learning, and research, MIT Open Learning opens MIT virtually to the world, sharing the best of the Institute's knowledge and education resources to support global learning. **MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a core part of Open Learning's vision of making MIT materials accessible on a global scale.**

OCW: SHARING MIT MATERIALS WITH LEARNERS AND EDUCATORS EVERYWHERE

As more people across the globe stay home from work and school this year, the demand for OCW educational resources continues to rise. As the Covid-19 pandemic began requiring communities to shelter in place in April-May, visits to the OCW site increased by 75%, with over 70% of visits coming from outside the United States. Website traffic is now holding steady at about 60,000 daily visits as compared to about 40,000 daily visits in years prior.

This surge in demand for high-quality, accessible, and free online education resources is a reminder that, during times of crisis and disruption, the urgency to keep on learning and to learn something new is stronger than ever.

To-date, there have been more than 500 million visits to OCW from learners, students and educators from around the world. We estimate we've supported more than 210 million learning journeys from people who seek to improve their knowledge, learn something new, or help their communities.



“We’ve always been honored to support learners and educators all around the world, and that mission has never been more important than during this time of pandemic disruption. It’s astounding to have served over 10 million website visits and 50 million page views since the global emergency was declared in mid-March.”

- Curt Newton, OCW Director

UPDATES FROM THE DEAN FOR DIGITAL LEARNING



- Dean Rajagopal [shares an update on new OCW courses](#), meeting a YouTube milestone, and the [MIT Open Learning Library](#) in October 2019.
- Dean Rajagopal [shares how OpenCourseWare has been an important resource](#) during the Covid-19 pandemic and encourages you to [share your OCW story](#) in a May 2020 message.

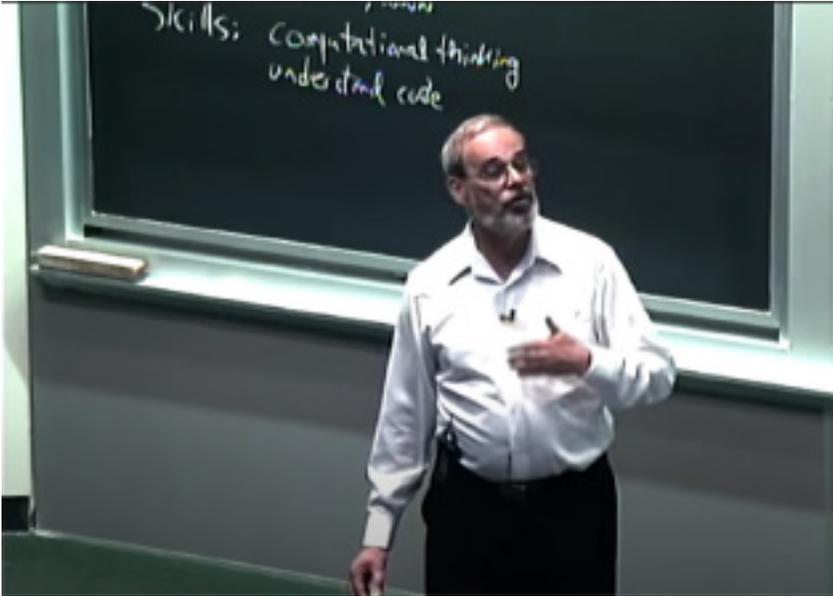
OCW'S IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



“I have an Electrical Engineering degree and am always interested in learning more about electronics, software, and robotics, but I am retired and on a fixed income and cannot afford to spend money on classes. I want to keep learning to keep my brain active and challenged to help prevent dementia which seems to be a genetic trait in my family.”

- Richard, Independent Learner, USA

REACHING LEARNERS AND RAISING AWARENESS



The first lecture of MIT [6.00 Introduction to Computer Science and Programming](#), Fall 2008 has received more than 4.9 million views and counting.

The OCW YouTube channel has become an increasingly popular site from which learners experience MIT course lectures. There are more than 2.5 million individual subscribers to our channel, leading a significant number of learners to OCW to further their educational exploration.

We've also committed to developing our social media presence ([Facebook](#) with 484,000+ likes, [Twitter](#) with 201,000+ followers, and our newest channel, [Instagram](#) with 4,000+ followers) to better reach learners and help them discover the latest content on the OCW website.

As the online options for learners and teachers continue to multiply, the value of OCW—free and open materials spanning the entire MIT curriculum—has never been greater.

We recently redesigned our [OpenMatters blog](#), which shares insights into courses, interviews and profiles of esteemed MIT faculty, and highlights courses and resources around a designated topic. One of our favorite posts was sharing [A Day in the Life with MIT OpenCourseWare](#).



“OCW is very important for me because it is a tool to prepare me for university, which is a space in which I can learn about different topics, with materials that are difficult to find on other platforms. But I especially feel that OCW gives us a clear message that if you want you can do it, no matter where you come from or the money you own.”

- Angie, High School Student, Colombia

OCW'S IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

484,000

FACEBOOK LIKES



4,000

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS



90K

PODCAST DOWNLOADS

201,000

TWITTER FOLLOWERS



430

MIRRORED COPIES OF THE OCW SITE AT INSTITUTIONS WORLDWIDE (220 IN AFRICA, 160 IN ASIA)



145+

COURSES WITH FULL VIDEO LECTURES

2

MILLION

AVERAGE VISITS PER MONTH TO OCW



210

MILLION

INDIVIDUALS HAVE ACCESSED OCW MATERIALS SINCE LAUNCH

2,550+

OCW COURSES AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES



1.3

BILLION

PAGE VIEWS SINCE LAUNCH IN 2002



THANKFUL FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

Much like our learners, OCW supporters are a generous and global community. They help grow our learning resources and recognize knowledge is a public good. Their donations also enable us to continue to create MIT educational materials that broaden educational opportunities and change lives.

Many share what inspired them to give to OCW.



“I discovered MIT OpenCourseWare for myself a couple months ago. I was trying to find free material online to assist my independent study of multivariable calculus, and to my pleasant surprise, I found an entire free course on OCW! I checked out all the other amazing material available and I was completely overwhelmed. Learning is my passion and I was so touched by the fact that OCW gives people an open access to abounding knowledge; I wanted to help keep this opportunity alive however I could, so I donated!”

- Annie, Student, USA

DURING OUR 2019-2020 YEAR:



SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND SHARING PEDAGOGY



Professor Anjali Sastry describes how she mentored students in **15,960 New Executive Thinking Social-Impact Technology Projects** with OCW's Sarah Hansen.

For the past eight years, we've been sharing in-depth insights on MIT teaching practices and pedagogical approaches with the world through OCW Educator. [OCW Educator opens up the "how and why" of MIT teaching](#), complementing the "what MIT teaches" provided in OCW's courses. The OCW Educator Portal helps instructors find teaching materials and teaching approaches best suited to their own classes and student needs.

As a core part of the Educator project, 225 OCW courses now have an [Instructor Insights section about the teaching approach for the](#)

[course](#). Educators can access a wealth of inspirations and practical tips about course design, use of technology and online tools, creative ways to assess student learning, active learning exercises and other routes to student engagement. Just as OCW course materials empower learners all over the world, OCW Educator is empowering teachers with knowledge and inspiration to advance their work and the education of their students.



OCW'S IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Top 5 countries with visits to OCW since June 2007



CHALK RADIO: A PODCAST ABOUT INSPIRED TEACHING



Professor Amah Edoh and Sarah Hansen record the Chalk Radio episode “How Africa Has Been Made to Mean.”

This year also marked the arrival of Chalk Radio, an OCW podcast about inspired teaching at MIT, hosted by OCW’s Senior Manager for Open Educator and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Sarah Hansen. The show takes listeners behind-the-scenes of some of the most interesting courses on campus through conversations with the professors who make those courses possible.

The [first season of 11 episodes](#) include conversations with Drs. Philip Greenspun and Tina Srivastava about how to teach students the basic principles needed to fly small aircraft

in an immersive three-day classroom experience; a discussion with Worcester State University Professor Elizabeth Siler and MIT Professor Mary Rowe on how Professor Siler remixed Rowe’s open educational resources from her OCW course to teach undergraduates the art of negotiation; and insights from educational researcher Justin Reich on transitioning to remote teaching and learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

225
INSTRUCTOR
INSIGHTS

11
PODCAST
EPISODES

90,000
PODCAST
DOWNLOADS

95,000
PODCAST VIEWS
ON YOUTUBE

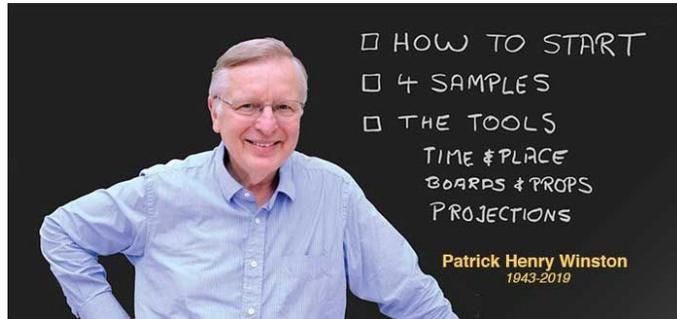


“OCW isn’t merely an educational or informative centre about different subject areas. It’s a lifesaver! OCW has helped me get access to my passionate course “Mechanical engineering” for free!! Though I couldn’t afford to study Mechanical engineering at a university, I have learnt the basics of it. I’m very thankful to the entire MIT-OCW team.”

- Oumie, Lifelong Learner, Gambia

In Memoriam

This year we also said goodbye to two amazing souls who inspired countless OCW learners and team members alike: Professor Patrick Winston and instructor Herb Gross. Both profoundly cared about their students and their mastery in the subjects they taught. We count ourselves deeply lucky to have worked with such creative, attentive, and joyful people whose teaching legacies live on in the courses they've shared with the world.



This would have been [Professor Patrick Winston's fortieth year](#) teaching an Independent Activities Period [session on "How to Speak,"](#) an hour-long master class on effective presentations. Since his video was posted on our YouTube channel in December 2019, it has been viewed more than 2.3 million times.

Herb Gross' mathematics videos on calculus, linear algebra, and differential equations were taught more than 50 years ago, but [the content and his teaching style](#) is still relevant today.

"With respect to what I hope will be my legacy, I want you to know that I consider you and the OCW team as my extended family and partner. More specifically, the viewers who are virtually showering me with praise have never met me. In actuality, they are praising the forever young Herb Gross in the videos. Had it not been for Madge Goldman and the entire OCW team, they would never have met the forever young Herb Gross. It is my hope that he will continue to help others even when this Herb Gross is no longer here."

- Herb Gross, June 12, 2019

Future Forward: Next Gen OCW



Nearly 20 years ago, MIT launched OCW and created life-changing new learning opportunities for millions of people around the world. This commitment from MIT helped inspire an open education movement and transformation in the field of online learning that continues to reimagine knowledge sharing to benefit learners everywhere. To keep OCW at the center of this dynamic and growing open education ecosystem and to mark our twentieth anniversary in 2021, we are reinventing OCW for greater reach and impact, while sustaining our core commitment to freely share MIT materials with the world. This visioning is encompassed as NextGen OCW.

Currently, NextGen OCW is in the prototype phase with new features to make OCW come to life for smartphone users, a redesigned search experience to ensure that everyone can find the content that fills their needs, and ensure that OCW remains a vibrant reflection of the ever-evolving MIT curriculum.

We look forward to keeping you posted on these and other exciting developments as we embark on this next year in the life of OpenCourseWare. Thank you for being part of it.

-The OCW team

