

Idealistic Paper
Aachen 17.December 2011

**Introduction of OpenCourseWare (OCW)
to the IDEA League Universities**

This Paper goes out to:

IDEALeague Operational Board
Dr. Thanh-Tâm Lê, Paris Tech
Dr. Ulrike Hillemann-Delaney and Dr Christopher Bird, Imperial College London,
Dr. Christoph Niedermann, ETH Zürich
Prof. Amrin Schnettler, RWTH Aachen

Dr. Ulla Bidian, IDEA League Secretary General

The Paper is written by the Idealistic representatives of:
RWTH Aachen, Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss der RWTH Aachen
ETH Zürich, Verband der Studierenden an der ETH
Imperial College, Imperial College Union
TU Delft, Studentenraad TU Delft

To whom correnspondance should be adresses to:
idealistic@vseth.ethz.ch

Introduction

The IDEA League is a European focus network of world leading universities specialising in science, engineering and technology and as such, they will provide some of the best specialised insights into these fields of study.

An OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a free and open digital publication of high quality university level educational materials. These materials are organized as courses, often including course planning materials and evaluation tools as well as thematic content. OpenCourseWare is free and openly licensed, therefore accessible to anyone, anytime via the internet.

OpenCourseWare (OCW) seeks to capitalize on the potential of the internet to eliminate borders and geographic distance as obstacles to the instantaneous exchange of knowledge and new ideas. Unlike distance learning programs that charge tuition, provide formal instruction and limit participation, OpenCourseWare offers all course materials free to everyone with online access. Educators from around the world may improve their classes; students may enhance their coursework or pursue independent study; the general public can gain an insight to the depth and breadth of what leading universities are offering and can benefit from the reading lists and lectures.

(Adapted from ocw.tudelft.nl)

Believes

- The general public will benefit greatly from having access to these materials.
- IDEA league students will benefit from the academically related specialisations of the lectures from the member universities.
- IDEA league universities, in providing these lectures Open-Sourced, will benefit their international reputation greatly. It will boost the university brand and significantly improve public opinion in favor of IDEA League universities.
- Knowledge transfer benefits the economy and society and should be a priority for universities.
- OCW can boost the image of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and inspire prospective students and school students into pursuing a career in STEM studies.
- It will benefit students who are unsure whether to pursue a Masters or PhD in a subject area, and it should stimulate their interests.
- OCW will allow students with an active interest in other disciplines to broaden their academic range.
- OCW provides Europe an opportunity to catch up with the world leading American universities who are leading the way in this area (examples include MIT and Stanford).
- The IDEA League should take advantage of their network of leading European institutes of science and technology to develop the best available material to outscore other networks.

Resolves

General actions required:

1. Map current activities and contacts working on the development of OCW.
2. Bring in contact developers at the different IDEA league universities.
3. Promote the availability of the recorded lectures.

A) Making Presentations of Guest speakers and Colloquiums available on the internet

Goals:

- share inspiring lectures.
- inspire and motivate students and future students.

Proposed actions:

1. Record inspiring lectures and publish them on different media (YouTube, iTunesU, a Special IDEA League platform).
2. Make these lectures accessible on a TEDtalks style interface.

B) Make some specialized courses which are only taught at one University available to all Students within the IDEA League

Goals:

- broaden the spectra of courses offered at each university within the network.
- broaden the students opportunities to specialize in their studies.
- share specialized knowledge within the IDEA league.
- make this knowledge accessible to all IDEA league students.

Proposed actions:

1. Map complementary available knowledge. What knowledge would every university like to access at one of the IDEA league partners?
2. Contact related persons (teachers or researchers) at all IDEA partners.
3. Communicate how the knowledge can be transferred (both contents and didactical form) and embedded effectively in all curricula.

C) Make didactically excellent courses available to all IDEA League students as supplementary material for their studies.

Goals:

- Cooperate to develop top quality open course ware (OCW).
- Make the best teachers accessible to all students for a more efficient transfer of knowledge.

Proposed actions:

1. Use the best teachers of the IDEA network on the subject.

Appendix 1

1) Example of OCW at TU Delft

<http://collegerama.tudelft.nl/mediasite/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=fd32fd35-6c99-466c-89d4-cd3c431bc8a4>

go to Faculty-->select the lecture of interest

2) Coasts of the OCW at TU Delft

Recording

Start up costs based on a growth model (hence extra investments have been done afterwards, depending on how much capacity etc. you want) : € 150.000,-
Annual spending on recording: € 280.000,- for 1700 lectures

Open CourseWare

Professor: 8 hours

Student assistant (who prepares slides etc.): 40 hours

Assistance of the OCW desk (feedback, help for student assistant, copyrights, quality, completeness, usefulness for self study.): 1-10 hrs (differs a lot)

Source (download directly): [OCW manual for professors \(Dutch\)](#)

3) OCW at MIT

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/>