

# Off-line Use of an On-Line Education System

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Very extensive, free educational materials (*open-courseware*) on the internet opens new opportunities for advanced education of groups everywhere. This includes, for example, colleges, schools, training centers, community centers, discussion groups, and those remotely located, disabled, or otherwise isolated. This article presents an approach when student access to this bounty is limited.

## 1. WHAT IS OFFERED ON-LINE?

At a file [www.bestweb.net/~cureny/courses.PDF](http://www.bestweb.net/~cureny/courses.PDF) you can find samples of these offerings. In that file, you have over 50 selected courses or lectures (samples we think illustrate the relevant resources), and URLs pointing to each:

- \* High School General (7 samples),
- \* Math (6 samples),
- \* English (2 samples),
- \* Social Studies (5 samples),
- \* Biology (3 samples),
- \* Chemistry (3 samples),
- \* Physics (6 samples),
- \* Information Technology (6 samples),
- \* Political Science (6 samples),
- \* History (2 samples),
- \* Technology/Engineering (9 samples), and
- \* Finance/Business (4 samples).

Readers can thus readily view any of these English language courses or lectures. *These samples are only a tiny fraction of the educational content already available on the internet.*

Universities in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Spain, France, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, Korea and Taiwan are among the many members of the OpenCourseware Consortium (see <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>) offering free on-line courses.

## 2. OFF-LINE USE OF ON-LINE RESOURCES

It often is not feasible for every educational participant to have personal access to the internet. Costs can be a huge problem. Many demand the freedom to schedule education at unusual places and times. One can avoid such impediments and still use the courseware that's on the internet by combinations of the following 3 means of getting *off-line portable media*.

1. **From a college.** e.g., All of the extensive MIT free, on-line courseware is also available on a hard drive provided by MIT (in effect, downloaded for you).

2. **From a Foundation.** Much of the excellent Annenberg on-line- courseware can also be purchased for use off-line.

3. **From your downloading.** Many *open-courseware* files can be downloaded from the internet by an organization's authorized personnel or teachers, using computers either inside or outside the organization. These courseware files can be stored on portable Flash Drives (a two-inch portable Flash Drive can hold 2 to 8 GB or 2 to 8 hours of video lecture) or on a DVD. The small portable Flash Drive or DVD need be handled only by a responsible teacher or designated organization staff, and not by students.

*The portable media, obtained by all three approaches above, can later be used to present the courseware elsewhere, off-line, to students via a) a stand-alone laptop computer, b) a projection display driven by a laptop, or c) a local network of computers. The DVDs can also be shown on a TV. None of these presentations need have any connection to the internet.*

**These procedures can also aid correctional-facility security, obeying a ground rule, in many prisons, that incarcerated persons may not have any connected access to the internet.**

## 3. MAJOR SOURCES AND HOW TO DOWNLOAD

The download procedures (for #2 above) are varied, depending on both the source and the type of material. Hence, some familiarity with the source is involved. At another file, [www.bestweb.net/~cureny/downloads.PDF](http://www.bestweb.net/~cureny/downloads.PDF) we direct you to seven major sources of free, on-line courseware, and provide *instructions on how to download from iTunes U and some others.*

1. YouTube (MIT, Berkeley);
2. iTunes U, (e.g., Stanford, MIT, Duke, K-12);
3. Direct from colleges (Berkeley, MIT, Yale);
4. Curriki (a consortium for K-12 materials);
5. MERLOT (a consortium for college materials);
6. UCCP (for college prep courses); and
7. Annenberg (K-12 and college courses, no downloads)

## 4. TEACHING MODES

Colleges that provide *open-courseware* offer free and wonderfully educational courses, but with *open-courseware* they offer no interaction with their teachers, and no credits or degrees. Nevertheless, when properly managed, great value can result. *Much preferred, is a group facilitation mode, using an on-site teacher, teacher-assistant, or facilitator to manage student discussion, group collaboration, quizzes, exams, and assignments* (see "Collaboration" "CLEP" and "ACE" via our web page at [www.bestweb.net/~cureny](http://www.bestweb.net/~cureny)).