Joomla as a Tool for Hybrid or Online Course Development

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

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Joomla Interface

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Joomla Examples

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Joomla Backend Interface

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Joomla Output

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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
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

Caprifoliaceae Viburnum dentatum - arrowwood viburnum: Fruits, drupes, bluish black, clustered.

Caprifoliaceae Viburnum dentatum - arrowwood viburnum: Leaves, opposite, simple, deltoid to orbicular in shape, coarsely toothed, often fuzzy.

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Joomla vs. LMS

- Bookkeeping
- Quizzes
- Access
- Class size
- Outreach

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Questions

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