

Title: Experiences With Integrating Drupal Into Higher Education

Technology contexts continue to evolve in the field of education, as universities look to incorporate new and innovative technological tools to enhance learning and communication. As institutions of higher education grow towards offering a greater amount of online content, the challenge has shifted to finding ways to make online content accessible and easily updated by both faculty and students who have minimal knowledge of web programming. Using a Content Management System (CMS) is one widespread solution to this ever changing issue. These systems provide website architecture, both behind the scenes and through viewable web content, making it easier to focus on managing the written content that is going to be displayed (Powel & Gill, 2003; Svarre, 2006).

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas College of Education has continued to use different Content Management Systems (CMS) to manage and deliver web content. Of those CMS implemented, Drupal has been utilized the most. Thus far Drupal has been used to manage and deliver content for the curriculum and instruction department, signups for a conference, a sports program for youth, and other special projects. This paper will discuss our experiences with using Drupal to manage and run the various websites related to the college. Each Drupal related project will be discussed in detail from initial conception, production, framework, and management of the live site. Positive and negative experiences will also be discussed throughout the paper, including recommendations and best practices for CMS use within higher education.