

Posting the Catalog Online

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Over the past several days I've worked with Eric Turner with the web team to look at some options to post the catalog online as you requested. To us, the best option is to purchase an academic catalog management system. These are powerful and well-organized management systems that can house information, provide a process for updating content, create a workflow, and share information via Web and PDF.

The best one I have seen is [CourseLeaf Catalog Management](#), which provides services that I haven't seen elsewhere. You can see its potential in UC Berkeley's excellent academic catalog, called the Berkeley Bulletin, which does have some upgrades.

The UC [Berkeley Bulletin example](#) is marketing focused and contributes toward college goals, such as helping students find what they need, building understanding and awareness of our numerous programs, and increasing enrollment. Here are some highlights in UC Berkeley's catalog:

- The [cover and material](#) are eye catching, easy to navigate and marketing focused
- The degree programs can be [filtered to help people](#) find what they want, even if they're not sure what they want.
 - Look on the right of the page I linked to. You can filter the programs by interests, academic focus and even career categories, etc.
 - If you click on a degree program, you can [learn more about the department](#) and answers Potential Careers, What is it?, Why study there?
- They folded in important student information, like [Tuition and Fees](#). You can see the full links if you scroll down to the footer.

The system offers a lot of benefits, including:

- The information can be accessed from an easy to understand content management system
- Workflows can allow many users, who can send their materials for review. The review panel shows all the changes tracked making it easy to ensure the changes are appropriate. Department chairs can be notified when changes are made to something related to them.
- The design can be responsive and can adjust to desktops, tablets and phones.
- The information can be presented as a web page OR through PDF. You can download/print just ONE page or you can download/print the whole catalog.
 - This feature may limit our need to use the e-brochures and will reduce staff time in designing this information through In Design, opening up opportunities to help with design work we have had to turn down.
 - You can see this in action in [Brown University's Bulletin](#). At the bottom left of each page, you can choose PRINT OPTIONS and determine how you want to save the information.
- Changes are fast, ensuring the document is consistently updated and correct.
- The system can check for errors including course requirement, and spelling, etc.
- The information can be pulled via XML to post onto department websites for consistency
- [Mira Costa Community College](#) is already using this as well as dozens of [other campuses](#).

CourseLeaf and other vendors would be glad to present their products to you in detail if you would like to learn more. Please let me know if you need anything else.

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