

# Believe It Or Not, Education is Frequently Free (or Nearly So)

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# What Kinds of things are available?

- Massachusetts Libraries
- Courses through the Libraries
- Lifelong Learning Programs
- Courses that Universities supply on-line
- Books on-line
- Podcasts
- YouTube
- Myriad of Lectures available every month

And some amazing stuff

<http://www.tvkim.com/watch/243/kims-picks-its-a-printer-made-of-legos>

# Today's Objective

- Provide an outline of the types of opportunities that are available
- Focus on a few sites that I have found to be personally interesting
- Identify techniques to locate things that you find to be interesting
- Encourage browsing for more and more educational opportunities. Since they are free, there is no downside to exploration

# Massachusetts Libraries

- Lexington is part of the Minuteman Library Network  
<http://www.mln.lib.ma.us/>  
That includes 35 towns and 7 colleges (mostly small)  
All assets from these libraries can be searched on-line and sent to the library of your choice (except for DVDs)
- The Merrimack Valley Library Consortium permits cross sharing of library cards <http://www.mvlc.org/> includes another 35 libraries (Burlington is the closest)
- Massachusetts has a Virtual Catalog  
<http://mblc.state.ma.us/books/catalogs/vc/index.php> that allows for searching across Massachusetts. Search capabilities are limited and it is best to have an ISBM.
  - Different libraries and library systems have different ways of coding objects, making it difficult to locate things like Voice CDs

# Courses through the Libraries

- The Teaching Company has (as of 3/2010) 399 courses
  - <http://www.teach12.com/teach12.aspx?ai=16281>
  - 6-24 CDs; 30-45 minute lectures; 2 lectures per CD
  - Minuteman shows 285 records (some may be duplicates); Merrimack shows 298 records
  - Very broad range of subjects
  - Listened to 7; extremely high quality
- Modern Scholar has about 100 courses
  - Minuteman shows 122 records; Merrimack shows 74
  - [http://mapleleafaudio.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=scholar.course\\_list](http://mapleleafaudio.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=scholar.course_list)

Note: Courses can be temporarily downloaded to iTunes or other MP3 player

# OSHER Lifelong Learning Programs

- **Osher Lifelong Learning**

- Funded by Bernard Osher
- 122 programs across the country, 4 in Massachusetts. Must be 50 or older.
- <http://usm.maine.edu/olli/national/>
- Prices vary as do length of semesters. Most have supplemental lunchtime seminars
- Peer taught courses

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College**

1350 West Street; Pittsfield, MA 01201

Website <http://www.berkshireolli.org>

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Brandeis University (BOLLI)**

MS 085; Waltham, MA 02454-9110

Website <http://www.brandeis.edu/bolli>

There are limited members, but not currently an issue and program is expanding.

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University**

039 Carmichael Hall, Tufts University; Medford, MA 02155

Website <http://ase.tufts.edu/li>

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of Massachusetts, Boston**

McCormack Hall, 3rd Fl.,

UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd; Boston, MA 02125-3393

Website <http://www.olli.umb.edu/>

# Non-OSHER Lifelong Learning programs

- Regis College (LLARC)
  - <http://www.regiscollege.edu/academics/details.aspx?id=990>
  - Weston, MA
  - Open enrollment. Pay for courses only, or membership includes lunchtime programs
  - Many attendees apparently from a discontinued Boston College program.
  - Peer taught courses
- Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement
  - <http://www.hilr.harvard.edu>
  - HILR is restrictive and you must pass an interview to be selected
  - \$800 per year
  - ~65 courses/semester and very active Friday seminar series
  - Peer taught courses
- Wellesley
  - Apparently free to Wellesley residents if enrollment space allows

# Courses that Universities supply on-line

- There are a large number of universities that state that they provide a large number of their courses on-line. That is only partially true.
- Education Portal has received considerable publicity and is worth reviewing. [http://education-portal.com/articles/Universities\\_with\\_the\\_Best\\_Free\\_Online\\_Courses.html](http://education-portal.com/articles/Universities_with_the_Best_Free_Online_Courses.html)
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology. <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/courses/av>. >1,800 “course” offered through the OpenCourseWare project ; only about 200 with much video and content
  - Open University. <http://www.open.ac.uk/openlearn/home.php> The Open University is the UK's largest academic institution with about 600 courses BUT MOST NOT FREE
  - Carnegie Mellon. <http://oli.web.cmu.edu/openlearning>. CMU offers about a dozen free online courses and materials.
  - Tufts University. <http://ocw.tufts.edu/TuftsOER>. Courses are sorted by school (i.e., School of Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine, etc.) and include assignments, lecture notes and other supplementary materials. But, for example, Arts & Science had only 15 courses and the material within them is pretty sketchy.



## Universities Online (Cont'd)

- [Stanford Courses on iTunes U](http://stanford.edu) (stanford.edu)
- UC Berkeley. <http://berkeley.edu/multimedia/index.php#courses>. Hundreds of UC Berkeley courses, both current and archived, are now available as podcasts and webcasts/YouTube.
- Utah State University. <http://ocw.usu.edu/> Pretty limited information and poorly presented.
- Kutztown University's of Pennsylvania. [http://kutztownsbdc.org/course\\_listing.asp](http://kutztownsbdc.org/course_listing.asp). Kutztown's Small Business Development Center offers 90 free business courses including accounting, finance, government, business law, marketing and sales. Comprehensive text, interactive case studies, slides, graphics and streaming audio are available. To utilize the material you must become a member, free ,at their home page. Each state has something like this, but there is no standardization. Use [www.asbdc-us.org](http://www.asbdc-us.org) to browse.

## Universities Online (Cont'd)

- University of Southern Queensland. <http://ocw.usq.edu.au> 10 courses offered including Introduction to Tourism. All are available as both text and audio, with an Australian accent. This is an “initial” offering so maybe more is coming.
- University of California, Irvine. <http://ocw.uci.edu>. The first thing I noticed on their [www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu) homepage is that they show the temperature and have a surf report for Newport Beach. They currently have about 50 courses. I particularly liked *Physics 21: Science from Superheroes to Global Warming* which addresses, for example, could Superman fly?
- iTunes U has more than 100,000 educational audio and video files from top universities, famous museums, public media organizations, and other cultural institutions from around the world.
  - In *iTunes*, click *iTunes Store* (below Store).
  - Click *iTunes U* at the top of the *iTunes Store* window.
- FEMA Courses. <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/edu/completeCourses.asp>

# Free Books On-line

- <http://www.ebooksread.com/>. This site currently has 242,000 free ebooks from 92,000 authors
- Project Guttenberg. <http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog>
- Partners and affiliates to Project Guttenberg with another 100,000 titles. [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:Partners%2C\\_Affiliates\\_and\\_Resources](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:Partners%2C_Affiliates_and_Resources)
- The Kindle and its competitors (Nook, Sony) have different formats, and you cannot always move books over to your computer. Here is a program that can help (and is free)
  - *Calibre* lets you download e-books from all over the Web. You can manage them all in a single program. And they can easily be converted into a useable format. You even have the option to read them on your computer. See <http://calibre-ebook.com/> for a demo and a free download if you wish.
  - Find an evaluation of the various ebook readers. They are quite different, handle light conditions differently, etc.

# Podcasts -- Just a smattering

Podcast technology: Once you load/subscribe a podcast you can have it automatically download additional shows as they become available. There are thousands available

- BBC-4, one of the British BBC groups, has a large number of podcasts
  - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/>
  - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/> provides a history of the world in terms of 100 objects each in the British Museum. They are incrementally placed as podcasts, but additional information is available through the BBC website. Each is about 15 minutes.
  - <http://thehistoryofrome.typepad.com/> is currently at 100 episodes and is available as podcasts or directly through the web
- Scientific American: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/>
- National Geographic: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/>
- Smithsonian: <http://www.si.edu/podcasts/> (this is vast!!!)
- Boston Globe Red Sox Weekly:  
<http://www.boston.com/sports/baseball/redsox/multimedia/podcast/>

# YouTube [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

- YouTube (owned by Google) is an Internet video sharing website. Anyone may view most YouTube videos by simply visiting the site, but must sign up for a free account to view videos of “offensive” or adult nature, leave comments, or up-load videos.
- 9000 hours of video are uploaded every day. More content in the last six months than the 3 major networks provided in 50 years.
- View “An anthropological introduction to YouTube” as presented at the Library of Congress which is available on the excellent site <http://www.mahalo.com/youtube>
- Surprising Results of some YouTube searches
  - 873 hits on Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers
  - 13,700 hits on Tanzania
  - 15,700 hits on Sarah Palin
  - 28 hits on “Babe Ruth Calls His Shot”
  - 1,130 hits on Stanford University Lectures

# I decided to learn about Ancient History

- Courses through the Library
  - Iliad, Odyssey, Aenead, Ancient Battles, Ancient Egypt
- Books through the library
  - I Claudius (Robert Graves), Twelve Caesars (Suetorius), Augustus, Battle of Thermopylae (Pressfield), Biography of Alexander (Manfredi), Cicero (Robert Harris), biography of Genghis Khan (Conn Iggulden), ...
- Videos from PBS/Nova and National Geographic on YouTube

Secrets of the Lost Empires - Pharaoh's Obelisks	YouTube (PBS 2/15/2000)	56 minutes long tries to figure out how to put up an obelisk <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFcMWUeRePw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFcMWUeRePw</a>
Secrets of the Lost Empires - Easter Island	YouTube (PBS 2/8/2000)	How to erect an Easter Island statue <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xc8Xio0xWUc&amp;playnext_from=SL">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xc8Xio0xWUc&amp;playnext_from=SL</a>
Secrets of the Lost Empires - Roman Public Baths	YouTube (PBS 2/15/2000)	How to build a Roman Bath <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKBc3_fKHtA&amp;playnext_from=SL">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKBc3_fKHtA&amp;playnext_from=SL</a>

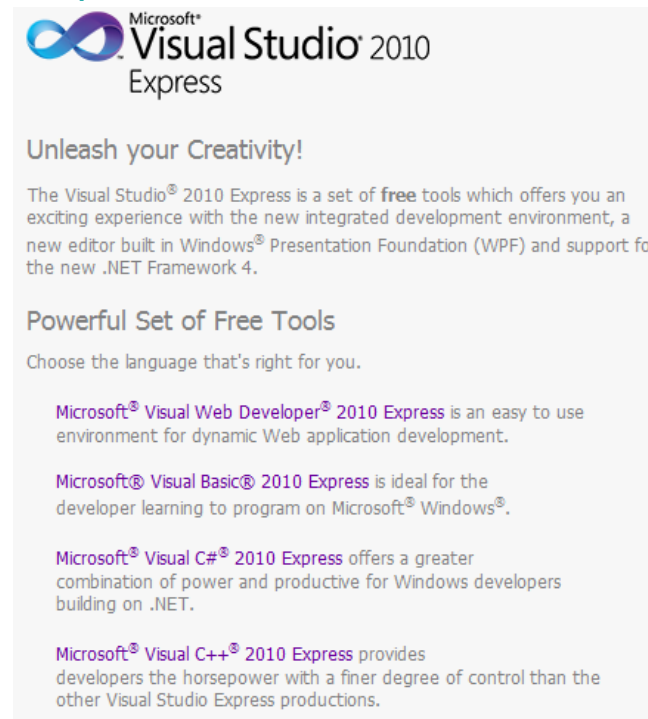
# Courses on Computer Technology

- <http://www.vbtutor.net/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'Visual Basic Tutorial'. The header features the site title 'Visual Basic Tutorial' in large white text on a dark blue background. To the right is a search bar and a navigation menu with buttons for 'VB6 Tutorial', 'VB2008 Tutorial', 'VBA Tutorial', '中文VB教程', and 'Sample VB Programs'. A sidebar on the left contains sections for 'Visual Basic Training Courses' and 'HTML Tutorials'. The main content area has a welcome message and a call to action to click on 'VB6 Tutorial' or 'VB2008 Tutorial'. A small image of a book titled 'Visual Basic 6 Made Easy' is shown on the right.

- <http://www.microsoft.com/express/Windows/>



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Express website. The header features the Microsoft logo and the text 'Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Express'. The main content area has a heading 'Unleash your Creativity!' and a paragraph describing the Visual Studio 2010 Express as a set of free tools. Below this is a section titled 'Powerful Set of Free Tools' with a sub-heading 'Choose the language that's right for you.' and three paragraphs describing the tools for Visual Web Developer, Visual Basic, and Visual C#.

# Computer Technology Cont'd

## [Free Computer Training and Courses Online](#)

Learn **computer** programming for **free** - how to develop and write **computer** programs and applications. Find **Computer Training** and other software development ...

[www.intelligentedu.com](http://www.intelligentedu.com) › [Free Training and Courses](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Free Computer IT Training Tutorials](#)

Self Paced Online and CD **Computer Training**. You can Try for **Free** many lessons of ...  
Edcomp.com - Our new **Free Computer Training** Search site is now online, ...

[www.intelligentedu.com/freecourses.html](http://www.intelligentedu.com/freecourses.html) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Free Online Learning at GCFLearnFree.org](#)

GCFLearnFree.org - The freedom to learn what you want, when you want, absolutely **free**! Check out our Everyday Life, Basic Math, and **Computer Training** today!

[Computer Basics](#) - [Excel 2007](#) - [Online Classes](#)

[www.gcflearnfree.org/](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Free Computer Training at GCFLearnFree.org](#)

Learn the basics of computers and software with our **free** tutorials and online classes.

[www.gcflearnfree.org/computer/](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computer/) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Free Computer Training Videos from Train Signal Training](#)

Apr 19, 2010 ... **Free Computer Training** for IT Professionals -- **Training** Videos on MCSE, MCITP, Cisco CCNA, CompTIA, VMware and more.

[www.trainingsignaltraining.com/](http://www.trainingsignaltraining.com/) - 6 hours ago - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Microsoft Office Training - Microsoft Office Online](#)

**Free** self-paced **training** courses for Office programs ... Brainstorm logo · BrainStorm Inc. Get more out of Office 2007 with these **free training** videos. ...

[office.microsoft.com](http://office.microsoft.com) › [Home](#) › [Help and How-to](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Learnthat.com - Free Tutorials, Training and Courses in Software ...](#)

Learnthat.com offers **free** online software tutorials in various topics, MCSE, certifications, popular **computer** software applications, finance, teaching, ...

[www.learnthat.com/](http://www.learnthat.com/) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [Free training tutorials on Microsoft Access, Visual Basic, MS ...](#)

Profsr.com Tutorials has to be your number one stop for **free training** resources on **computer** programming with Visual Basic, database modeling with Microsoft ...

[www.profsr.com/](http://www.profsr.com/) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

## [CustomGuide - Free Computer Training Quick References, Cheat Sheets](#)

**Free Computer Training** Quick References, Cheat Sheets. ... Be notified when new Quick References are released — and get a **free** Online Learning evaluation: ...

[www.customguide.com/quick\\_references.htm](http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)



# Myriad of Free Lectures available every month

- Every month I selectively gather and distribute the free events from the calendars at:
  - a dozen local libraries, including:
    - Lexington [http://www.caryllibrary.org/aboutus/fr\\_programs.html](http://www.caryllibrary.org/aboutus/fr_programs.html)
    - Bedford <http://www.bedfordlibrary.net/events/events.htm>
    - Burlington <http://burlingtonpubliclibrary.org/>
    - Concord <http://www.concordlibrary.org/>
  - Kennedy Library <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education+and+Public+Programs/Kennedy+Library+Forums/>
  - National Heritage Museum <http://www.monh.org/Default.aspx?tabid=580>
  - Lexington Veterans Ass'n: Monthly lecture at Library
  - Lexington Hist. Soc. <http://www.lexingtonhistory.org/index.php?n=Main.WatchPrograms>
  - Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk University <http://www.fordhallforum.org/>
  - Minuteman National Park <http://www.nps.gov/mima/planyourvisit/events.htm>
  - I have not yet researched the many local colleges
- If I get help, I can broaden this endeavor, include more towns, add colleges
- Sign up if you want to be on my list or we can dump it onto Yahoo


# Pick an area of Interest -- e.g., Astronomy

- Yale has a free course on YouTube, Stanford has one on iTunes
- Kim Komando had a recent daily bulletin on free astronomy SW
- NASA has a photograph of the day, with explanations  
<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/>
- Look for free books (hundreds of references)
- <http://bb.nightskylive.net/asterisk/viewtopic.php?t=14459> course developed by a professor at Michigan Technology University. Completely free
- Astronomy Podcasts <http://www.astronomycast.com/>  
Using iTunes subscribe through [astronomycast.com/podcast.xml](http://www.astronomycast.com/podcast.xml)
- Hubble telescope: <http://flixy.com/hubble-ultra-deep-field-3d.htm> seeing the oldest part of our galaxy “ultra deep field“

# Free programs for astronomy buffs

- [Stellarium](#)—Stargazing is relaxing, educational and fun. But you can't do it everywhere. City lights often drown out the stars. Or, maybe it's just a cloudy night. You could visit a planetarium if there's one nearby. Or, you could download this program. It's like having a planetarium on your desk.
- [Celestia](#)—This program also gives you the planetarium experience. You view the stars as you would from Earth. But this program doesn't keep you there. It lets you leave the ground and travel through the galaxy. You can also add new features. These could be spacecraft, satellites and planets. You can even add fictional items for fun.
- [WorldWide Telescope](#)—You may have a cool telescope in your closet. But what if you had access to the best telescopes on Earth? This program gives you that access. You'll find some of the best views of deep space. You can even take guided tours of the heavens.
- [Moon Arounder](#)—Many people dream of traveling to the moon. Only 12 people have set foot on it. They saw the moon as no one else has. You've seen grainy video from those trips. But have you seen these panoramic photos? These 360-degree photos let you feel like you're standing on the moon.
- [Google Earth](#)—This program is great way to explore our world. But you can also explore the moon and Mars in the same way. You'll get detailed imagery. You can take narrated tours of important sites. You can even aim Google Earth at the stars. To get to these features, simply click View>>Explore.

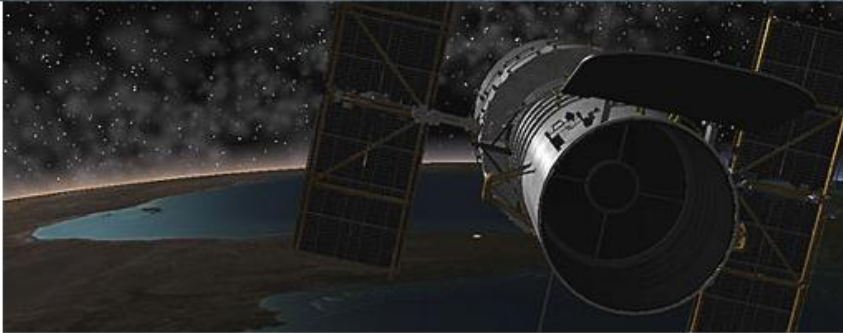
# Celestia

The banner features a background of a constellation map with a faint figure of a scorpion. On the right, the word "CELESTIA" is written in a large, serif font, with a small image of the planet Jupiter to its right. Below the banner is a navigation menu with a dark blue header containing the word "NAVIGATION" in white. The menu items are: Home (with an orange square), Download, News, Documentation, Add-Ons, Screenshot Gallery, Forum, and Related Sites (all with grey squares).

**CELESTIA**

NAVIGATION

- Home
- Download
- News
- Documentation
- Add-Ons
- Screenshot Gallery
- Forum
- Related Sites

A detailed illustration of a spacecraft with large solar panels, viewed from a perspective that shows the Earth's horizon and the starry background of space.

**Welcome to Celestia**  
... The free space simulation that lets you explore our universe in three dimensions. Celestia runs on Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X.

**Unlike most planetarium software,** Celestia doesn't confine you to the surface of the Earth. You can travel throughout the solar system, to any of over 100,000 stars, or even beyond the galaxy.

**All movement in Celestia is seamless;** the exponential zoom feature lets you explore space across a huge range of scales, from galaxy clusters down to spacecraft only a few meters across. A 'point-and-goto' interface makes it simple to navigate through the universe to the object you want to visit.

**Celestia is expandable.** Celestia comes with a large catalog of stars, galaxies, planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and spacecraft. If that's not enough, you can download dozens of easy to install add-ons with more objects.

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# Fixing and Repairing Things

- Manuals on line

<http://www.manualsonline.com/> claims 5000 brands, 300,000 guides

<http://the-manuals.com/> claims 5.8M manuals

<http://safemanuals.com/> claims 5600 brands, 1.9M guides

- How to do things

<http://www.ehow.com/>

4600 items on cameras including 13 on my Canon A95

<http://www.doityourself.com/>

# Opportunities are Endless