

the DESIGN DRIVE

Abstract :

The DESIGN DRIVE: A single-source, online database that is designed and utilized for sharing materials pertinent to faculty and students...an online design encyclopedia. By organizing and streamlining technical knowledge alongside theoretical information in an open-source collection, the project hopes to ensure both are covered throughout the program, providing students and faculty with regular access to resources. In line with a professional and accredited degree program comprised of faculty that embraces innovation, we believe such a platform complements the fundamentals of design education which exist in human-centered practice, advanced through a multi-layered, sensory-laden, and connective ways of experiencing the world. Hence, this unique mode of sharing intends to meet twenty-first century students in their world deeply shaped by technology, grounded in instant connection, and populated by wide-ranging digital data.

What might this mean? A student who excels at writing might do well in more traditional courses whereas students with a greater range of skills and abilities across a variety of media and approaches would thrive in the rich environment envisioned and present on the DESIGN DRIVE. More so, the program has identified the need for a database to provide faculty with a broader opportunity for collaboration and sharing of information and techniques valuable for enhancing course materials as well as individual research. For instance, one professor might create and share a video about concrete, which illustrates how it is made and how it can be used. The History and Theory course could use this video to introduce the material and to indicate how it has changed since Ancient Roman times when it was originally created. Then, an Interior Construction Systems course, could reference the same video to illustrate the structural capacity of concrete in connection to construction. Similarly, a Materials course may watch the video to understand the properties and characteristics of concrete in relation to human interaction, as in a countertop. With an ability to collect, curate, and disseminate such expert information, the platform expands populations reached by the program without compromising the education provided. Thus, the DESIGN DRIVE has the potential to be a pilot for transforming the way educators and students work, learn, and share, creating a catalyst for change while enriching and deepening instructional prowess and the positive learning that results from a strong commitment to teaching and learning.