

Building and Sharing Course Resources through the ComPADRE Digital Library

Bruce Mason, University of Oklahoma, USA

The wide range of available web resources for teaching physics is both a blessing and a curse in the creation of media-rich courses. The benefits come from the wealth of high quality, reusable, and free materials available. The challenges come in discovering materials that meet particular needs, organizing them into a course curriculum, and potentially sharing them with colleagues.

The ComPADRE project (Communities for Physics and Astronomy Digital Resources in Education) is a digital library partnership of four professional societies and funded by the US National Science Foundation. This library has the tools to help with these discovery and organization challenges. The library consists of resource collections for specific audiences, with learning materials that are organized and vetted by librarians and editors. Each member of ComPADRE (membership is free) has a personal collection space to organize resources they feel are most useful. Once created, these personal collections can be shared with other ComPADRE members or be open to all.

This paper will focus on the personal collection features of ComPADRE and their use for supporting course development. Creation and organization of folders, adding and annotating resources, and sharing the results will be described, with a focus on curriculum building. Other tools and features of ComPADRE will also be described.