

Knowledge Management in Contemporary Europe

4. The Future of Higher Education Institutions

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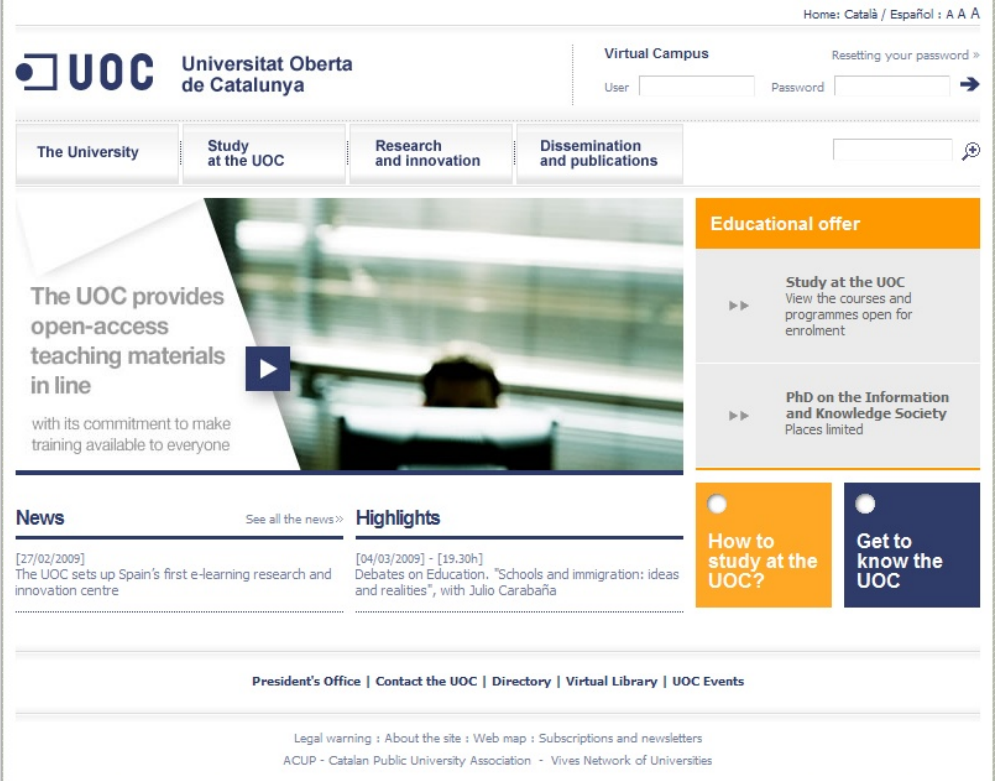
Niels Bohr:

Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.



About UOC:

- Headquarters in Barcelona, Spain
- Fully online university (BAs, MAs, PhD)
- Founded 15 years ago as an online university
- 54.000 students, 500 f-t faculty, 2000 p-t faculty
- **Faculty as Mentors**



The screenshot shows the UOC website homepage. At the top right, there are language options: "Home: Català / Español : A A A". The main header features the UOC logo and name "Universitat Oberta de Catalunya". To the right of the header is a "Virtual Campus" login section with "User" and "Password" input fields and a "Resetting your password" link. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs: "The University", "Study at the UOC", "Research and innovation", and "Dissemination and publications". The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a large banner with the text "The UOC provides open-access teaching materials in line" and a play button icon. Below this banner is a "News" section with a date "[27/02/2009]" and the text "The UOC sets up Spain's first e-learning research and innovation centre". To the right of the news is a "Highlights" section with a date "[04/03/2009] - [19.30h]" and the text "Debates on Education. 'Schools and immigration: ideas and realities', with Julio Carabaña". On the far right, there is an "Educational offer" section with two items: "Study at the UOC" and "PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society". At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "How to study at the UOC?" and "Get to know the UOC". The footer contains a "President's Office | Contact the UOC | Directory | Virtual Library | UOC Events" link and a "Legal warning" section with links for "About the site", "Web map", "Subscriptions and newsletters", "ACUP - Catalan Public University Association", and "Vives Network of Universities".

Open Ed Tech events

- 2008: *What does it mean to be educated in the 21st Century?*
- 2009: *Reimagining the 21st Century University*

<http://www.uoc.edu/symposia/openedtech>



What does it mean ... Conclusions

- *Where the traditional educational business model was fueled by content, the new educational model rests on mentorship.*
- *Student-centered learning is moving from an abstraction to a reality.*
- *The role of educators is shifting beyond instruction to sense-making.*
- *Technology will remain a key enabler of change.*



What does it mean ... Requirements

- *New literacies will be needed.*
- *Institutions must shift from 'industrial-era' practices*
- *The educational community must reach for fewer, clearer and higher standards that translate across borders.*
- *Technology must be aligned with learning needs.*



Reimagining ...

- Campuses with global scale and local reach could become an emergent model.
- As students gain more say in directing their education, they may also seek more specific learning-to-career paths. Employers are also keen to acquire ever-more specialized skill sets to 'right-fit' their talent base from the start.



Reimagining ...

- As the rate of technological change accelerates it may also quicken the pace of discovery.
- Universities and third-level organizations must determine what activities are truly foundational to their mission.
- Institutions must be open to new and non-traditional sources of learning
- Universities must foster good citizenship



Reimagining ... Call for action

Five major tasks:

- Encourage the reuse and remixing of rich media.
- Embrace the full promise of mobile devices as learning platforms
- Award credentials based on learning outcomes
- Enable a culture of sharing
- Take care that open resources include the context that will enable their use and understanding.



Alan Kay:

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

