



The Online Study Room

Social networking didn't stop with Facebook. Now a new age of technology and education has broken through with OpenStudy (openstudy.com). OpenStudy is a social learning network website where students from all over the world can connect with other students, answer questions, and get help. Anyone can sign up for free!

Preetha Ram, PhD, Associate Dean for Pre-Health and Science Education in the Office of Undergraduate Education at Emory believes it's important for students to feel that help is easily accessible. She and two of her fellow co-founders created OpenStudy as a web-based technology for helping students and their learning. One can access the website at any time for help on any subject, with instant feedback and more than just an answer. "How do you build the online dorm room or study room?" she asks. "We want to have a way for learners that are online and studying something to be able to connect with other learners," says Ram. This is especially important for students hitting the textbooks later at night and for non-traditional students who take online courses.

OpenStudy currently reaches 250 countries and 2,700 schools worldwide. With 40,000 registered users, the study hall experience is brought online, with live group chats and online study rooms. Ram says it's a problem solving website that makes learning fun. The idea of a social profile is now warping to become an academic profile, where one's online profile is based on their academic ability. "The whole nature of education is going to change very soon," says Ram. With this growing online study room, the education experience is becoming efficient, productive and comfortably engaging for any learner. Learning is now becoming a worldwide collaborative effort with OpenStudy.

"We see Open Study as a very interesting opportunity that leverages the wide spread use of social networks for general communications by the students for peer-to-peer academic instruction," says Office of Technology Transfer senior licensing associate Cory Acuff. In 2007 Emory licensed this technology to start-up Inquus. The company's research and product development have been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Georgia Research Alliance.

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