EarthSpace: A National Clearinghouse for Higher Education Materials and Information in Earth and Space Sciences

Heather A. Dalton¹, Emily A. CoBabe-Ammann², Stephanie S. Shipp¹
¹Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, TX, United States, dalton@lpi.usra.edu, shipp@lpi.usra.edu; ²Emily A. CoBabe & Associates, Inc., Boulder, CO, United States, ecobabe@spaceeducation.org

Are you looking for Earth and space science higher education resources and materials?

Come explore EarthSpace, a national higher education clearinghouse for undergraduate assets!

Created in response to calls from the Earth and space science higher education community, EarthSpace is a searchable database of undergraduate classroom materials for faculty teaching planetary sciences, astronomy and astrophysics, solar and space physics, and Earth sciences at both the introductory and upper division levels. Modeled after the highly successful SERC clearinghouse for geosciences assets, EarthSpace was designed for easy submission of classroom assets – from homework and computer interactives to laboratories, lectures, and demonstrations. All materials are peer-reviewed before posting, and authors adhere to the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 3.0). EarthSpace materials are automatically cross-posted to other digital libraries (e.g., ComPADRE) and virtual higher education communities (e.g., Connexions). In addition to classroom materials, EarthSpace provides news and information about educational research and best practices, funding opportunities, and ongoing efforts and collaborations for undergraduate education.

EarthSpace Strategy and Approaches

- **Easy submission**: faculty need to be able to easily submit materials for consideration. EarthSpace is designed to be as painless as possible for submission and still get sufficient information to make it useful for searching!
- **Searchable**: by science topic, audience, type of material, and keyterms.
- **Straight-forward behind the scenes**: significant automation of transforming online submission forms into useable and reviewable files
- **Credit for your work and usability of materials**: all assets contributed to EarthSpace use Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 3.0), an open source license that allows open and free access to licensed materials but still ensures that developers receive appropriate attribution. CC BY 3.0 means that authors give permission for users to share and remix/adapt their work, but ask users to attribute the work in the manner that the author desires. To learn more about CC BY 3.0, visit creativecommons.org.
- **Wide distribution of resources**: once your materials are submitted and posted at EarthSpace, you can choose to “push” them to other online higher education repositories. There are many virtual repositories / communities and more emerging. As new repositories come online, EarthSpace materials will automatically be sent. So, you only submit once, and EarthSpace ensures continual distribution as time goes on and new opportunities arise. EarthSpace is currently pushing materials to Connexions, the largest online repository for higher education materials, and soon will engage ComPADRE, an online collection of physics and astronomy resources. If you have an online repository that you would like to see EarthSpace reach, let us know!

Peer Review = Publication!

All materials submitted to EarthSpace undergo peer review before posting. Peer review ensures that the quality of the EarthSpace materials is high and also provides important feedback to authors.

**Your submission is a reviewed publication!** Beginning in spring 2013, all EarthSpace materials will be assigned a unique, permanent doi (digital object identifier) for publication reference.

When you volunteer to review submissions, we ask for your areas of expertise so we can match the resources submitted to reviewers who know the topics well. Additionally, you will enter your availability; whether you have time to review materials once a month or once a year, your input is valuable!

To help EarthSpace maintain its high standards, **SIGN UP TO REVIEW TODAY!**