



HARVARD

Office of the Vice Provost for Advances in Learning

RESEARCH

Harvard Canvas Usage

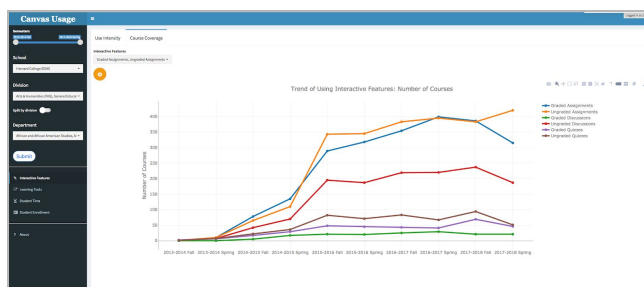
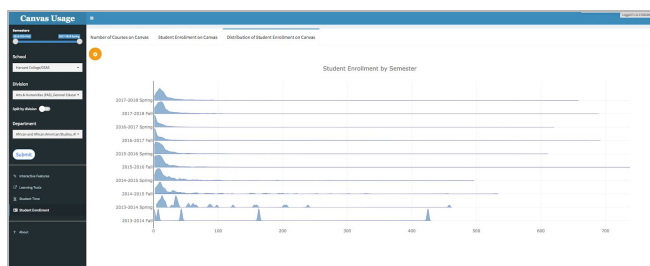
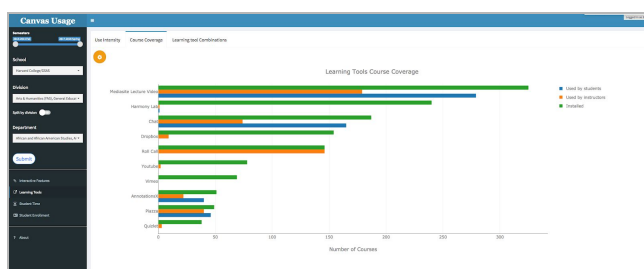
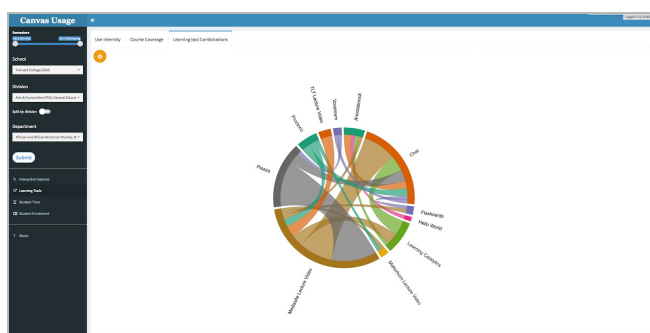
Huan Wang, Ilia Rushkin, Glenn Lopez, Dustin Tingley

Goals

Provide HUIT and other HUIT designated parties an overview of usage of the Canvas platform and its features. Data can be broken out at different levels, including the school and Department level.

Product: <https://vpal.hmdc.harvard.edu/canvasusage/> (Harvard Key Protected)

The Canvas Usage application displays the Canvas data for Harvard courses, allowing the user to aggregate the information for any combination of schools, divisions and departments, as well as for any time-interval of semesters. Data coverage includes student enrollment counts, the use of interactive features (assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc.), the use of learning tools (Redirect, Youtube, Dropbox, Twitter, Blackboard, etc.), and student time spent on courses. Semester-by-semester data trends are available. If multiple divisions are present in the course selection, a break-down of data by division is available.



How we did it

VPAL-Research has the data pipeline that automatically pulls the Canvas course level data together. The Canvas course level data were cleaned and prepared for visualization. Only courses that had been published and live/completed in the past were included. Duplicate courses by course ID and course enrollment term were excluded. Enrollment terms with keyword like “Fall” and “Spring” were kept. The cleaned data were aggregated or parsed in different ways with summary statistics (e.g., counts, percentages, mean, and median), trends, distributions of student activities, and course level features. The visualization is realized in an R Shiny Dashboard.