

The logo for WatITis features a red arch above the text. The word "WatITis" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. "Wat" and "is" are in black, while "IT" is in red. The red arch is positioned above the "IT" and extends slightly beyond the "W" and "s".

**WatITis**

UWATERLOO  
SCHOLAR

Eric Bremner

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@watit.isconf



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# UWATERLOO SCHOLAR

- What is UWaterloo Scholar
- Uses and benefits
- Project description
- What is Open Scholar
- UWaterloo Implementation of Open Scholar
- Trials and tribulations
- Future development
- Questions and comments



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# WHAT IS UWATERLOO SCHOLAR

- Uses Open Scholar
  - Open source software solution built on Drupal
- Provides dynamic and customizable personal or academic websites
- Offered as a SaaS
- Built using the WatIAM id



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# USES AND BENEFITS

- Why use UWaterloo Scholar
  - Takes seconds to create a website
  - Friendly user interface
  - Easy to maintain
  - No technical experience required
- Open Source
  - Built on Drupal
  - Used by many academic institutions
    - <http://openscholar.harvard.edu/>



# USES AND BENEFITS

- Benefits of UWaterloo Scholar
  - Allow faculty to quickly build websites
  - Secure, professional environment
  - Self management or easily maintained by another user.



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# PROJECT DESCRIPTION



BMath ([Waterloo](#)), PhD ([Cornell](#))  
Professor, [Department of \[REDACTED\]](#)  
[\[REDACTED\]](#) Mathematics, University of Waterloo

## Research

My research involves building and analyzing mathematical models for a variety of biological systems. Particular applications I am currently studying include biological and artificial neural networks and plankton ecosystems. Although physically unrelated, the behaviour of these systems is often influenced by the same factors: the presence of nonlinearities and time delays. The time delays represent the time it takes information to propagate from one part of the system to another. The nonlinearity represents the fact that in these systems a small change in the state can often result in a large change in behaviour. Mathematically, my research involves dynamical systems theory (e.g., stability, bifurcations, centre manifolds and normal forms) and its extensions to delay differential equations and non-smooth systems. A [detailed description](#) of my current research projects is also available.

## Publications

## Students

## Software I use in my research

- [XPPAUT](#) (numerical integration of delay differential equations, among other things)
- [AUTO](#) (bifurcation continuation for ODE's)
- [DDE-BIFTOOL](#) (bifurcation continuation for delay differential equations)
- [MATCONT](#) (bifurcation continuation software for ODE's that runs under Matlab.)

## Online resources

- [Scholarpedia](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Computational Neuroscience](#)



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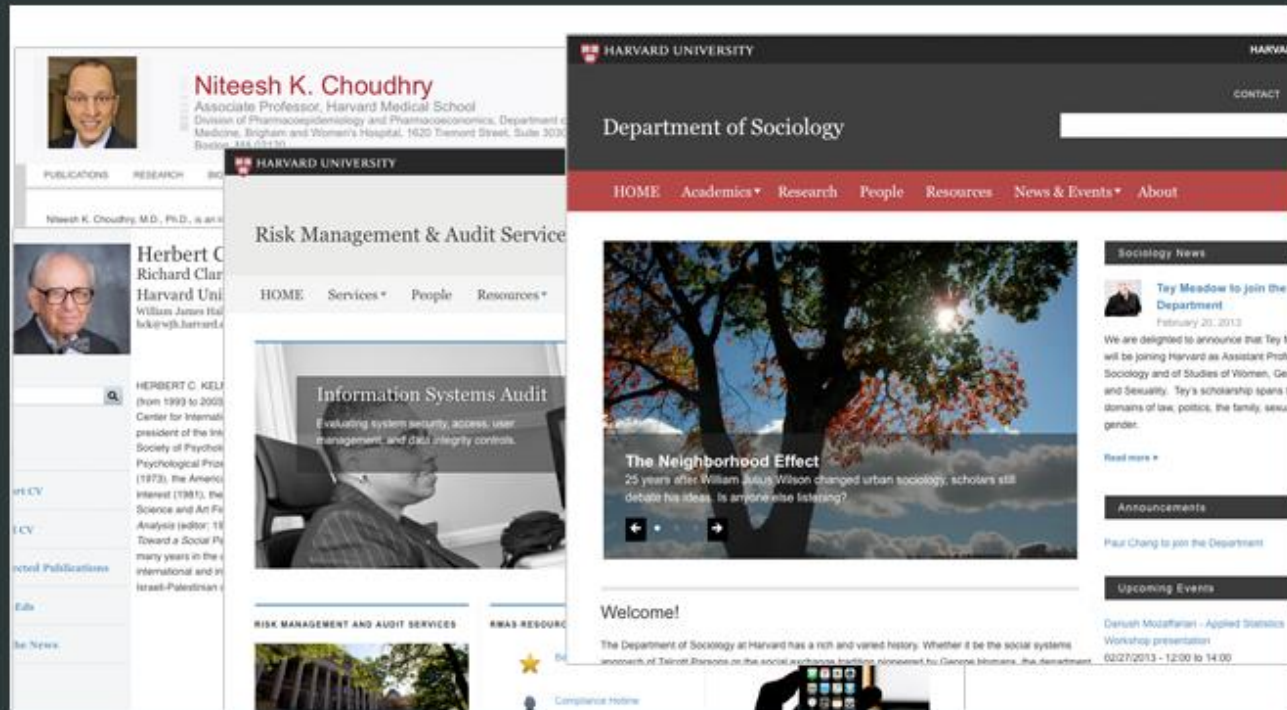


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OpenScholar is a website builder application designed for academics and academic institutions

A very low cost SaaS solution for academic institutions.

It allows end users to create full featured dynamic website on the fly.



»» <http://theopenscholar.org/>

# UWATERLOO SCHOLAR

- Demo of “Out of the box” Open Scholar
- Demo of UWaterloo Scholar



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```

/**
 * Return whether a user is wcms-create-openscholar.
 *
 * @param string $username
 *   The name of the user to check. If FALSE, will check the current user.
 *
 * @return bool
 *   Whether or not the given user is in the ADS group "wcms-create-openscholar".
 */
function _uw_cfg_openscholar_user_is_openscholar($username = FALSE) {
    return uw_ldap_attribute_memberOf('CN=wcms-create-openscholar,OU=Academic Support,OU=Security
Groups,DC=NEXUS,DC=UWATERLOO,DC=CA', $username);
}

}

-----

*
* @param string $username
*   The name of the user to check. If FALSE, will check the current user.
*
* @return bool
*   Whether or not the given user is in the ADS group "acadGrads".
*/
function _uw_cfg_openscholar_user_is_grad_student($username = FALSE) {
    return uw_ldap_attribute_memberOf('CN=acadGrads,OU=Groupier,OU=WatIAM,OU=Security
Groups,DC=NEXUS,DC=UWATERLOO,DC=CA', $username);
}

```



# TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

- Open Scholar documentation
  - Very well documented front-end
    - <http://docs.openscholar.harvard.edu/>
  - Virtually no back-end documentation
    - Thankfully built on Drupal



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# TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

- Open Scholar customization
  - Open Scholar is extremely customizable
    - Restrict to UW theme and functions.
  - Removal of all appearance edits
  - Removal of all widget edits



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# TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

- Open Scholar updates
  - Releases happen often
  - Little or confusing release notes
    - <http://theopenscholar.org/software/openscholar-drupal-7/7x-3523>
  - No feature reverts



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# TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

- De-Harvardifying and theming
  - Open Scholar has an abundance of themes
  - Users are able to pick a theme by default
  - Our implementation was to restrict to one UW theme.
  - Theming uses old philosophy to code for responsive
  - Implemented testing to check on updates



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# TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

- “Out of the box” -> Custom code
  - Still use about 90% of Open Scholar
  - Custom code comes around 1500 lines



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# FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Pilot launched Aug 2016
  - Math, Arts and Environment
- 1.0 Alpha was released on Nov 28, 2016
  - All faculties and grad students
- 1.0 Beta will be released Jan/Feb 2017
- Full release first quarter 2017



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# THANK YOU S

- Would like to thank the following:
  - Andrew McAlorum
  - Martin Leblanc
  - WCMS team



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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS



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