



Open Educational Resources

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Technology trends in HE (1)

- IT use in education growing for some time but mostly outside classroom settings:
 - Administration
 - Information
- Now signs that IT is entering core educational activities
 - “On-line education is growing by degrees” – appr. 20% a year (Sloan Cons. 2005)
 - “E-learning is becoming increasingly prominent in higher education” (OECD 2005)

Technology trends in HE (2)

- Growing competition in HE
 - knowledge and learning resources are often considered as key intellectual property
- Still institutions and individuals are sharing their digital learning resources over the Internet openly and for free.
- OER Project:
 - why this is happening?
 - who is involved?
 - what the policy implications of this?

10 Mar 2006

OU announces £5.6m project to make learning material free on the internet



OU learning materials available online free of charge

The Open University today announced a GBP £5.65 million (US \$9.9 million) project to make a selection of its learning materials available free of charge to educators and learners around the world.

Supported by a grant of US \$4.45 million from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation the University will launch the website in October 2006.



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a free and open educational resource for faculty, students, and self-learners around the world. OCW supports MIT's mission to advance knowledge and education, and serve the world in the 21st century. It is true to MIT's values of excellence, innovation, and leadership.

MIT OCW:

- Is a publication of MIT course materials
- Does not require any registration
- Is not a degree-granting or certificate-granting activity
- Does not provide access to MIT faculty

Learn more [about MIT OCW...](#)

Investing in Open Sharing

Demonstrating his belief in MIT and the ideal of open sharing of educational materials, [MIT alumnus Jon Gruber](#) has donated **\$1 million** to the OpenCourseWare project



"The OCW initiative constitutes a great leap in education. A great resource center for the thirsty minds of both present and future who wish to have access to the best educational and research material US has to offer."—Othon Sofianopolous, student in Greece. [Read more World Reaction...](#)

The Swedish Agency for Flexible Learning

Welcome to the Course Hub

The Course hub is a learning object database on the Internet. You can easily use learning resources by choosing the one you want. The service is free of use for all.



What is Open Educational Resources?

- OER are digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and re-use for teaching, learning and research.

What is Open Educational Resources

- OER includes:

- 1) open courseware and content;
- 2) open software tools (e.g. learning management systems);
- 3) open material for e-learning capacity building of faculty staff;
- 4) repositories of learning objects;
- 5) free educational courses...

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OER is a worldwide movement (1)

- 150 Chinese universities with over 450 courses online
- 11 French universities (ParisTech), 130 courses
- Universia – portal for more than 900 Spanish/Portuguese universities

OER is a worldwide movement (2)

- 9 Japanese universities in the Japanese OCW Alliance
- 7 American universities with OER projects (MIT, Rice, John Hopkins, Tufts, Carnegie Mellon, Utah State Univ.)
- Australia and New Zealand
- India, Pakistan, Vietnam and South-Africa

What do we know about OER? (1)

- Growing number of initiatives and resources
- Growing number of users – students, teachers and self-learners
- In HE, use and production is still mostly a bottom-up activity
- Instructors and researchers from all fields involved, but the education sector seems most interested

What do we know about OER? (2)

- Institutions involved are mostly using own resources or a mix of own + external public funding
- Most institutions and individuals co-operate, but about 1/3 work alone
- Most significant barriers to use OER:
 - Lack of skills and time
 - No reward system for teachers devoting time to use and produce open content

Suggested motives for institutions

- Altruistic reasons
- Leverage on taxpayers' money by allowing free sharing and reuse
- Good PR
- Growing competition – new business models are needed
- “What you give, you receive back improved” – cuts costs for content development

Motives for individuals

(preliminary results from survey)

- Gaining access to the best possible resources
- Creating more flexible materials
- Promote scientific research and education as publicly open activities

Arguments for open sharing – issues for discussion

- If no open sharing of research and learning materials, traditional academic values will be marginalised
- Free sharing reinforces research, societal development and diminishes social inequality
- In a few years institutions will be expected to have an OER programme, just as they are expected to have a website today



Thank you

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