Integrating eLearning: Key Challenges for Higher Education Governance

Lessons learned while implementing the Virtual University for the Small States of the Commonwealth

Paul G. West
Director, Knowledge Management & Information Technology
Commonwealth of Learning (COL)
Choices

- Open Educational Resources
- Access to Research
- Copyright
- Software Choices
VUSSC: A global initiative in sharing
• Open CourseWare (OCW)
• Open Educational Resources (OER)
• Open Access Resources (OAR)
• Open Learning Resources (OLR)
• Sharable resources
“... are publicly available materials that are either a part of or a complete course usually from a higher-education institution such as a university or college.”
are publicly available resources that may be used for educational purposes. The range in types of material is much broader that that for Open CourseWare, from suitability for children to college students to professionals. These materials are more often smaller modules rather than complete lesson plans or complete courses.”
Arguments against

- It is not the quality I want
- The author missed the point
- The publisher does not understand our circumstances
- If I don’t write the course, will I still have a job?
Arguments for

- Fast track development of new courses
- Avoid being limited to “old ideas” – find new material
- Reduce costs for your institution
- Increase the range of available courses
- Reduce accreditation issues
- Increase possibilities of transferring materials, courses, qualified people between countries
Searching for Open Educational Resources

http://www.col.org/oer
Assemble and customise OER

- Word processor documents
- Web pages
- Audio files (podcasts)
- Video files (YouTube)
- Pictures (Flickr)

Commonwealth education partners may use www.colwiki.org

• Instructional Design Template www.col.org/idtemplate
A key?

Go simple

The more complex, the likely it is to break
COL ID Template

- For anyone who wants to write learning materials
- Produce learning materials of high quality
- Need to read the manual!
- http://www.col.org/idtemplate
Cloud services

Scribd: http://www.scribd.com

GoogleDocs: http://documents.google.com

Microsoft Skydrive: http://skydrive.live.com

ThinkFree: http://www.thinkfree.com
Costs of traditional academic publishing
Open Access Distance Education Journals

Over 4,000 online publications

Free
Open Access Distance Education Journals

- Canadian Journal on Learning & Technology
- E-Learning Papers
- Educause Quarterly
- Electronic Journal of e-Learning
- Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries
- European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning
- International Journal of Education and Development using ICT
- Innovate Journal of Online Education
- International Journal of Instructional Technology & Distance Learning
- International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning
- Journal of Distance Education
- Journal of Educational Technology & Society
- Journal of Information Technology
- Journal of Online Learning and Teaching
- Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration
- The Journal of Interactive Online Learning
- Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education

http://www.col.org/irc
IRC online catalogue
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Partner Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Flexible Learning Framework (TVET)</td>
<td>John Hopkins School of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brigham Young University</td>
<td>Kaplan Higher Education</td>
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<td>Capilano University</td>
<td>Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (Small Business Development Center)</td>
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<td>China Open Resources for Education</td>
<td>Learning Resource Exchange for Schools</td>
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<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</td>
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<td>National Repository of Online Courses</td>
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<td>Curriki</td>
<td>OER Africa</td>
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<td>Dixie State College of Utah</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
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<td>Food Security Information for Action</td>
<td>Kyung Hee University, Korea.</td>
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<td>University of the Western Cape, South Africa.</td>
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<td>University of the Western Cape</td>
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Open University of Catalonia, Spain
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The University of Nottingham, UK.
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Dixie State College of Utah, USA.
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.
Kaplan Higher Education, USA.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.
Michigan State University, USA.
National Repository of Online Courses, USA.
Tufts University, USA.
University of California, Irvine, USA.
University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA.
University of Notre Dame, USA.
Utah State University, USA.
Weber State University, USA.
Western Governors University, USA.
Western Governors University
WikiEducator
Yale University, USA.
Western Governors University
Why publish in ways that discriminate against the majority of learners?
African academic works

Do our universities publish the FULL TEXT of research work so that the rest of the world can learn what Africa already knows?

Right now, it looks like Africa does not have a lot to offer the rest of the world.

Can we change this?

http://www.africaopenforbusiness.com/
What to do?

- Publish all new research work on the web!
- Publish a list of titles and abstracts of all older research work on the web!

Can we change to this?
Need to setup a repository?

- Register free on Scribd
- Publish papers on Scribd
- Setup a Scribd group for your university or college
- www.scribd.com

‘Cloud Services’
Facts and fallacies of CC “restrictions” and how they relate to OERs.
COL’s work in Copyright

- www.col.org/copyright
- Guideline on copyright limitations & exceptions
- Copyright Law and Education: Audit
- COL Copyright Guideline
- Chapter open licenses
- Book published
A few copyright options

- (C) All rights reserved
- Creative Commons:
  - Attribution
  - Share-Alike
  - No Derivatives
  - Non-Commercial
© All rights reserved

- May not reproduce
- Fair use / Fair dealing for classroom use
- Permission / royalty payments for reproduction
- May not use on the Internet
Creative Commons (CC)

* [http://creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org)
With Attribution (BY)

Need to say how you want to be recognised

- May re-use
- May edit or customise
- May recover cost, and
- May ‘profit’
Share Alike (SA)

Give away new versions you create, in the same format as you received

- May re-use
- May edit or customise
- May recover cost, and
- May ‘profit’
Non-Commercial (NC) (may cover all costs but no profit)

May be used by anyone

CC’s NC study questionnaire: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/11115

May re-use

May edit or customise

May recover cost, and

May NOT plan to make a profit

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Defining_Noncommercial
ND
(CC-BY-ND)

- No derivative works (ND)
  - No editing or customisation
  - May reuse as-is
- May be used or given away by anyone
- Fair use or fair dealing used for parts of the work

- May re-use
- May NOT edit or customise
- May recover cost, and
- May ‘profit’
Licenses for Open Learning Resources

- CC-BY-SA
- CC-BY-NC
- CC-BY-ND
- CC-BY-NC-ND
- No © materials to be copied!
Take care to check . . .

Copyright of
- pictures
- graphics
- texts
- videos
- audio files

Understand the rights of copyright holders. Need to get legal counsel.
Licenses for eLearning Institutions

- Creative Commons for papers & speeches (CC-BY-SA or CC-BY-SA-NC)
- Creative Commons for research works (CC-BY-SA-NC-ND)
- All rights research for publishers that make profits
Software Choices
Document Format Choices

- Microsoft: Doc, Docx
- OpenOffice: Odt
- Mac: Pages
- Adobe: PDF
Operating System Choices

- Microsoft - XP, Vista, Windows 7
- Mac
- Linux
So . . .

- Look out for Open Office 3.5
- Look out for MS Office 2010

Look for when the standards start to converge.
In the meantime . . .

- What computers and operating system do YOU USE?
- What word processor do YOU USE?
- Once you are done with the materials, can you CONVERT the format to others so that more people can use your materials?
In the meantime . . .

- If you have MS Word, use DOC (DOCX if the whole team has Office 2007);
- If you have OpenOffice, use ODT
- Convert to the other format and
- Convert to PDF and possibly HTML & Wiki when complete
Open Educational Resources
Access to Research
Copyright
Software Choices
What is there to do?

1. When creating materials, can we source good base materials? If not, why?

2. When publishing papers, can we use open access journals? If not, why?

3. When research is generated, can we publish this on the Internet? If not, why?

4. When publishing any learning materials or research, can we use a Creative Commons license? If not, why?

5. When releasing materials, can we publish in multiple formats so that most people can access them? If not, why?
Is Africa really open for business in its universities?

If not, why?