Open and Distance Learning:
Why all the Fuss?

A Public Lecture

Sir John Daniel
Commonwealth of Learning
To make Learning the Common Wealth of humankind
Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership
DEVELOPMENT (e.g. NEPAD) is fundamentally a challenge of learning
Teacher Training
Farmers
It is time to use technology to transform education, training, and learning.
The Triangle

COST

ACCESS

QUALITY

COST
Two types of learning activities:

INDEPENDENT
Two types of learning activities:

INDEPENDENT

INTERACTIVE
The Iron Triangle

COST

ACCESS

QUALITY
The success of the OPEN UNIVERSITIES

Owes much to the economies of scale of the media for independent learning
Two types of learning activities:

INDEPENDENT

INTERACTIVE
# BRITAIN’S TOP NINE UNIVERSITIES

## Quality Rankings of Teaching

based on all subject assessments 1995-2003  
*(Sunday Times University Guide 2003)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CAMBRIDGE</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LOUGHBOROUGH</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3=</td>
<td>LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3=</td>
<td>YORK</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>THE OPEN UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>OXFORD</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IMPERIAL COLLEGE</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ESSEX</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do not be too mesmerised by technologies that are not available to you!
Online communication

- Speeds things up

- Resources on the Web

- Collective creations (e.g. Wikipedia and Open Educational Resources)

- Communities of interest

- Inter-school collaboration
CONNECTIVITY makes COLLABORATION easier.
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES are
Open course content
Open source software
Tools
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

A network of:
Botswana, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and 18 other small states.

It will develop Open Educational Resources in:
- Professional Development in Education
- Life Skills
- Business and Management
- OER competencies
Thank you!