IDLELO: a common grazing ground
Learning
is our
Common Wealth
FOSSFA: 

a global commons of software
“our aim is to combine connectivity with learning resources so as to create a global intellectual commons accessible to the whole of humankind”
The

tragedy

of the

commons
The
tragedy
of the
commens
Open Source for Open Learning

John Daniel                     Paul West
Commonwealth of Learning
The Wide Umbrella of ODL

Virtual education

Online learning

Tech-MODE

e-learning

Distributed education

mLearning

Flexible learning

BLENDED LEARNING
Open learning
=
No barriers

distance learning
=
Scale, access, flexibility
Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership
Millennium Development Goals

Require

a massive increase in human learning
Open Source for Open Learning

1. Cut costs
2. Empower people
The Iron Triangle

ACCESS

QUALITY

COST
The **Iron Triangle**

- Quantity
- Quality
- Equity
The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid

C. K. Prahalad

4 billion people
C.K. Prahalad
The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid

‘radical innovations in technology and business models’

‘an ideal of highly distributed small scale operations married to world-scale capabilities’
Assets of large ODL systems

• Economies of scale
  low marginal cost of additional students

• Quality of scale
  - large numbers justify investment in quality
  - face-to-face sessions easier to organise
Number of students

Total cost

Face2Face

ODL

Number of students
Student data systems

- UK Open University (200k students)
  Moodle + CIRCE/OUTIS (Windows)
Student data systems

- UK Open University (200k students) Moodle + CIRCE/OUTIS (Windows)

- Netaji Subhas Open University (75k) ASSESS (Linux and Windows)
  Brihaspati LMS (IIT Kanpur)
Student data systems

Choices should be pragmatic, not dogmatic!
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
LMS Evaluation Tool User Guide

This document is a written guide to start using the software tool for evaluating Learning Management Systems (LMS's). This guide is written for the persons who will be actually using the tool to evaluate the LMS software. It assumes that you have a basic understanding of spreadsheets, and some working knowledge of either Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org. It is not a reference for either of these spreadsheet products. Commissioned by the Commonwealth of Learning from Swaynet Inc.

August 2004

http://www.col.org/Consultancies/04LMSEvaluation.htm


- LMSReportCard (Excel/XLS download)
- About downloading PDF files

INTRODUCTION

We have written this guide to help you start using a software tool for evaluating Learning Management Systems (LMS's). This evaluation tool was created and designed by Swaynet and licensed to Commonwealth of Learning. The tool is in the format of a spreadsheet. This guide is written for the persons who will be actually using the tool to evaluate the LMS software. It assumes that you have a basic understanding of spreadsheets, and some working knowledge of either Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org. It is not a reference for either of these spreadsheet products.

We encourage you to open the spreadsheet and follow along as you go through this user guide. The first sections of this guide provide an overview of the tool. The concluding sections provide instruction on how to use the tool as it is. It does not provide instructions for modification.
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
3. Know OS costs and functions
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
3. Know OS costs and functions
4. Cross-training of IT staff
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
3. Know OS costs and functions
4. Cross-training of IT staff
5. Start in Server Room
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
3. Know OS costs and functions
4. Cross-training of IT staff
5. Start in Server Room
6. Variety and specialisation
Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective
3. Know OS costs and functions
4. Cross-training of IT staff
5. Start in Server Room
6. Variety and specialisation
7. Students write code
Learning Materials
Learning Materials

Sharing has happened, e.g.:

CEMBA/CEMPA
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nigeria

TVET Teacher Diploma
Caribbean, Ghana, Pakistan

…but disappointing overall
Barriers to sharing courseware:

- ‘Not invented here’
- Copyright
- Non-digital formats
The most promising innovation

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OERs)

= open course content, open source software and tools
The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth
Collaborating to create open educational resources
Programme development
By international electronic collaboration using open source learning management systems

Programme delivery
By a variety of appropriate means, not necessarily e-learning
22 States including Botswana, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and Swaziland.
A Commonwealth-wide community

developing open educational resources
The most promising innovation

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OERs)

= 

open course content, open source software and tools
Thank you!

John Daniel
Commonwealth of Learning

Paul West