

**AFRICAN**



**COUNCIL**

**for Distance Education**



Barney Pityana  
UNISA



Olugbemi Jerede  
NOUN

Félicitations - Congratulations



Olesegun Obasanjo  
Student of NOUN



# 2ème

Conférence et de l'Assemblée  
General du CAFD  
8 -11 Juillet 2008



# **African Council for Distance Education**

12 August 2005

Tshwane

## **Open and Distance Education for Africans and by Africans**

Sir John Daniel and Vis Naidoo

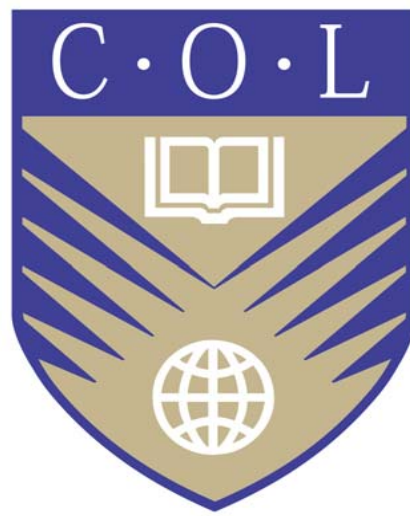
President

Commonwealth of Learning

# eLearning on the Far Side of the Digital Divide



Sir John Daniel  
President & CEO



Dr. Wayne Mackintosh  
Education Specialist:  
eLearning & ICT Policy

# **African Council for Distance Education**

2nd Conference

Open and Distance Learning for Sustainable Development

10-12 July 2008 - Lagos, Nigeria

## **eLearning on the Far Side of the Digital Divide**

Sir John Daniel and Dr Wayne Mackintosh

Commonwealth of Learning



Reach those on the far side

# Four Obstacles

- Connectivity
- Equipment
- Software
- Training

# Digital Divide (Fracture numérique)

# Digital Divide (Fracture numérique)

= lack of access to ICTs

It runs within countries as  
well as between them

# Digital Divide (Fracture numérique)

## WHY?

Political reasons



Commonwealth  
Telecommunications  
Organisation



Dr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah

# Digital Divide (Fracture numérique)

## WHY?

Economic reasons  
Geographical reasons



# Digital Divide (Fracture numérique)

## WHY?

Social reasons

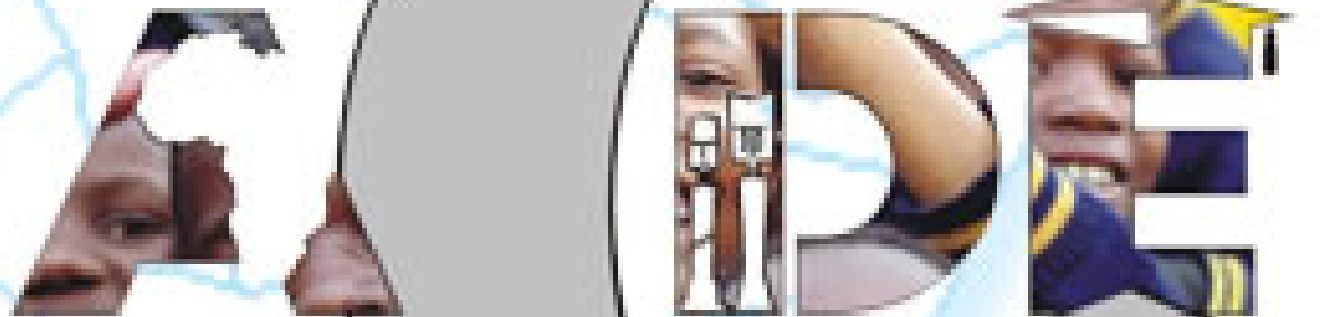
Linguistic reasons

Digital Divide  
(Fracture numérique)

**BETWEEN**

Teacher and Student  
Institution and Learner

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# eLearning

“the delivery of a learning, training or education programme by electronic means, involving the use of a computer or electronic device”

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# eLearning

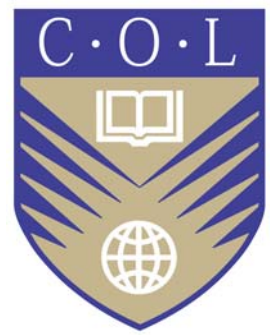
“the *design, development and delivery* of a learning, training or education programme by electronic means, involving the use of a computer or electronic device”

# dotcom frenzy

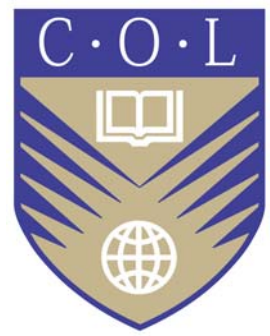
“all traditional  
methods of education  
and distance education  
obsolete”



# eLearning



“any distance learning programme that has an electronic component, even if most of the delivery is through the medium of print”







“If  
everyone  
can’t have it  
no one  
shall have it”

Giving connected computers to the student executive proved to be...



...something of a boomerang or at least a double-edged sword.



**The Open University**

150,000 students connected by 2000

**AFRICAN**



**for Distance Education**

“You should be introducing electronic elements in your courses as fast as seems reasonable....”

# Four Obstacles

- Connectivity
- Equipment
- Software
- Training

# Connectivity

# Connectivity

## Developmental benefits

“An increase of 10% in mobile penetration boosts GDP growth by 1%”

“The mobile industry, which accounts for 4% of GDP, accounts for 7% of tax revenues”

*(The Economist)*

# Connectivity

“if governments did away with mobile-specific taxes and charged only value-added tax (VAT), total tax revenues from the mobile industry would be 3% higher by 2012 and the average penetration rate would increase from 33% to 41%, which would, as we just mentioned, increase GDP growth by one per cent.”

*(The Economist)*



# COL's WikiEducator

Main Page - WIKIEducator - Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

Log in / create account

article discussion edit history

## Main Page

Register an account or proceed to the help page on how to create an account.

We're turning the digital *divide* into digital *dividends* using **free content** and **open networks**. We hope you can help us.

navigation

- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help
- Donations

search

Go Search

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version

Welcome to **Wikieducator**  
free **eLearning** content that **anyone** can **edit** and **use**

Designed for use with eXe and your favourite Learning Management System

- About
- Initiatives
- Free Content (OERs)
- Research
- VUSSC
- Funding proposals
- Educational approach
- Community networks
- The future of Wikieducator
- Planning for e
- Reso
- How cont
- and e
- cont
- FAQs

**The purpose of WikiEducator**

The WikiEducator is an evolving community intended for the collaborative:

- planning** of education projects linked with the development of **free content**;

**In the news**

Sir John Daniel announces the release of COL's Science, Technology and Mathematics Programme (STAMP) under a CC-BY-SA license. The 18 general education modules provide in-service skills training

We're turning the *digital divide* into *digital dividends* using **free content** and **open networks**. We hope you can help us.

# Equipment



Do not ship (or accept)  
electronic junk!

# Equipment





Tuxlab school – Northern Cape, South Africa

**Calling all  
educators!**

**Take SchoolNet  
home for only  
N\$2500!**

NOW I CAN  
ACCESS NAMIBIA'S  
BEST EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES AND  
INTERNET FROM  
HOME!





# SchoolNet Namibia









Am. Steiner inv. J. G. Schreyer sculp.

IMPRESSIO LIBRORVM.

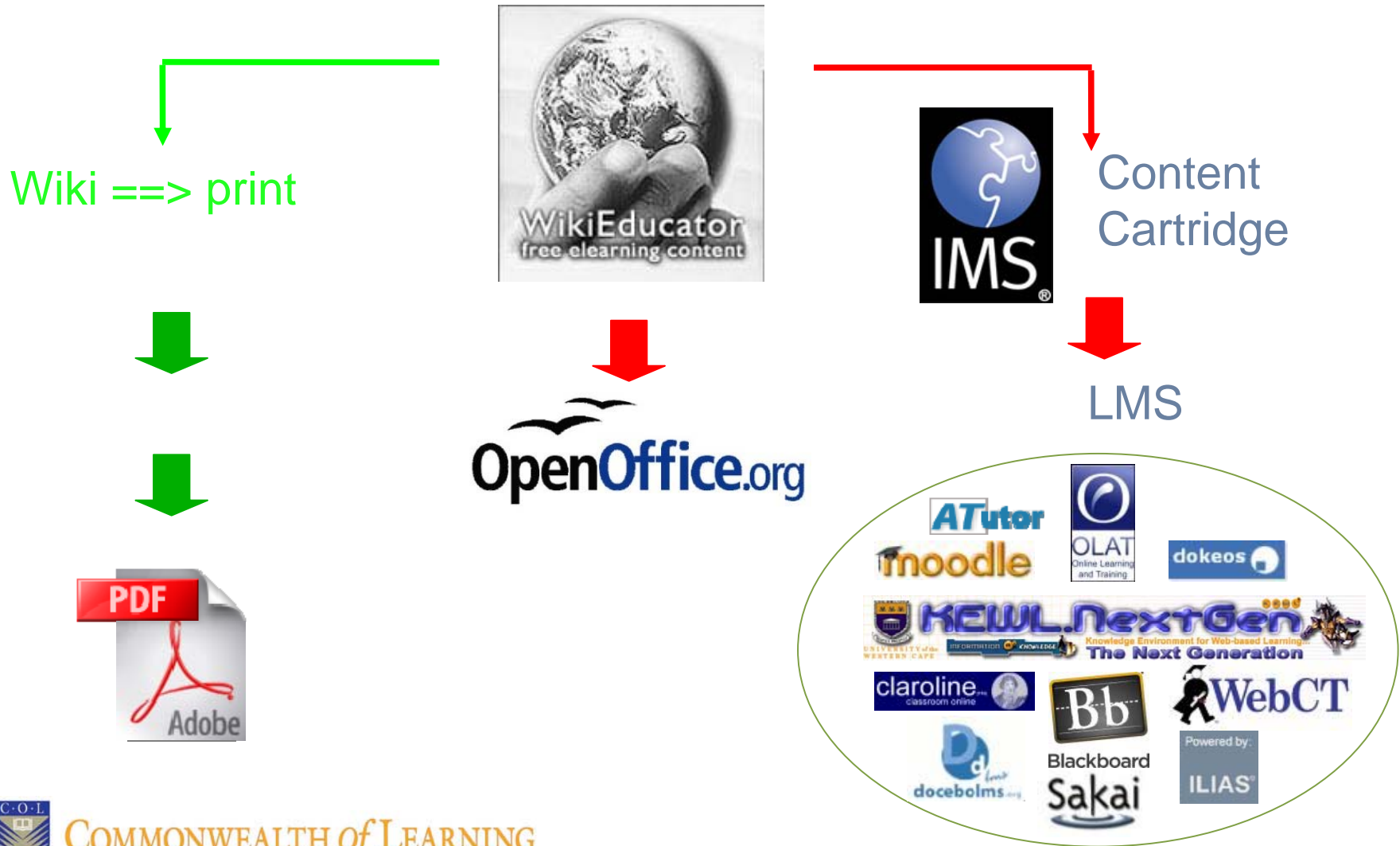
Potest ut una vox capi auris plurima:

Limoni ita una scripta mille paginas.



# Turning the promise of the future into today's reality

## Collaborative Authoring



# Software

# Software

“Software should support what educators do best rather than constrain them”

Software

Interoperability

is

vital

# Software

Interoperability is vital

Example:

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)



# Software

# Interoperability

protects your investment

in courseware

# Training





# The Small States in Africa



# The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

*'The vision that emerged for a virtual university serving small states was one of a consortium of institutions, enabled by appropriate ICT applications, working together in practical ways to plan programmes, develop the required content and ensure the delivery of those programmes and support services to learners.'*



# Mauritius VUSSC Boot Camp – August 2006



**“negotiated collaborative contents”**

# Seychelles VUSSC Boot Camp – March 2008



**“negotiated collaborative contents”**

# The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth

Course development workshops (“Boot camps”)

**Tourism & Entrepreneurship**



**Professional Development of Educators**



**Life Skills**



**Disaster Management**



**Fisheries**





# Learning4Content

*Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may not remember, involve me, and I'll understand*



- conduct 160 workshops
- train 2500 teachers/educators
- 2500 lessons of free content
- all Commonwealth Countries

<http://wikieducator.org/Learning4Content/Registration>



# Learning4Content

*Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may not remember, involve me, and I'll understand*



- Two workshops per country
- Cost sharing
- Online course every month
- so far: Ghana, India, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Zambia

<http://wikieducator.org/Learning4Content/Registration>

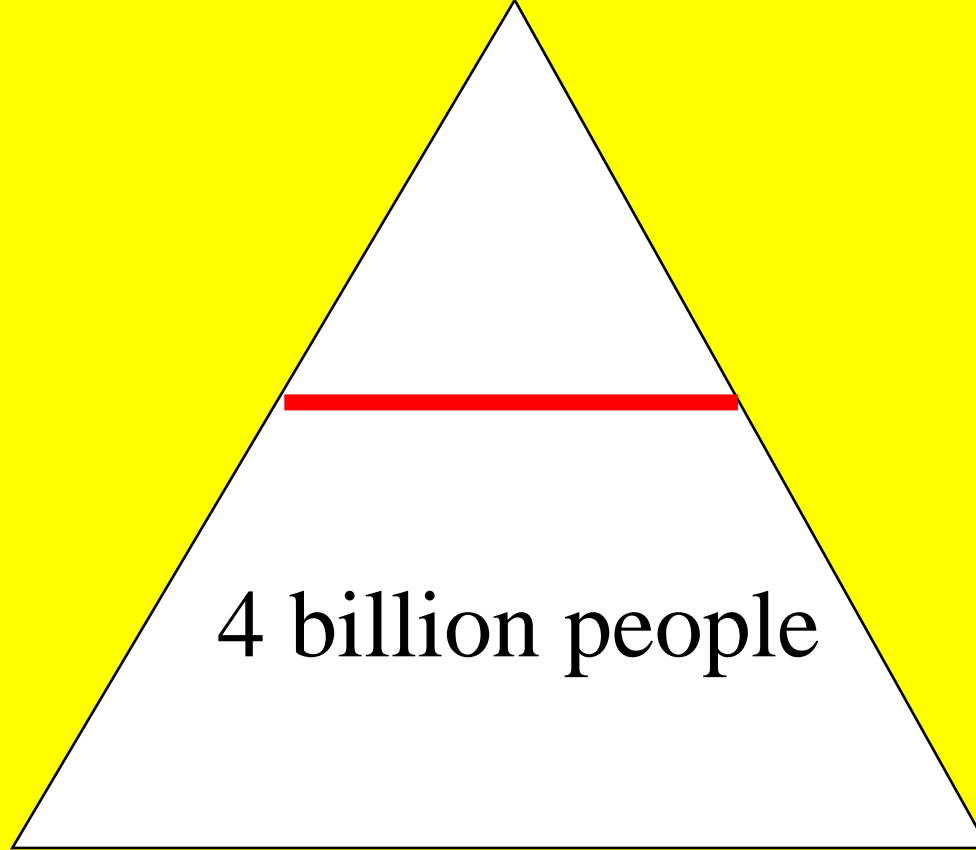
# Conclusion

But what about  
courseware?

# Conclusion

So far the extent of  
courseware sharing has  
been disappointing

The movement to create a  
global intellectual commons  
of  
Open Educational Resources  
has  
great potential



## **The World Economic Pyramid**

**Can OERS help us bring  
distance learning to the  
4 billion people at the bottom?**



THANK YOU