

A silhouette of a tree with many birds flying around it, set against a blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.


Open Educational Resources

Stephen Downes
September 26, 2008

What is an Open Educational Resource?

- fees
- subscriptions
- tuitions
- registrations
- obligations
- etc.

at a minimum,
no cost to the
consumer or
user of the
resource



OER



Conditions?

Attribution

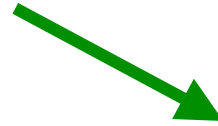
Share-Alike

Non-commercial

No-modify

Educational

Other?



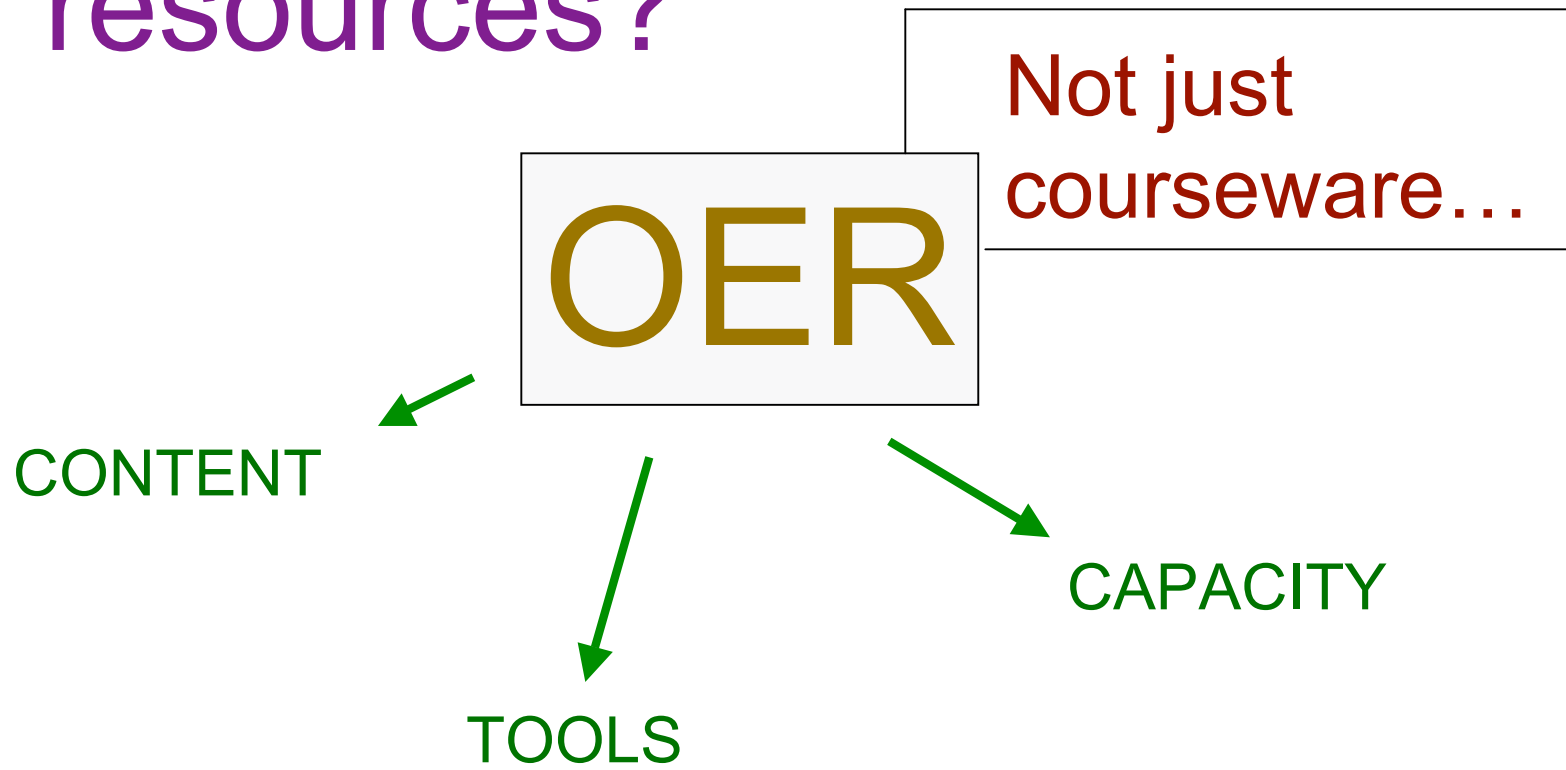
Freedom to

- access
- copy
- modify
- redistribute

Footnote 2005, Doyle 2005

Matter more in conditions of scarcity, not abundance

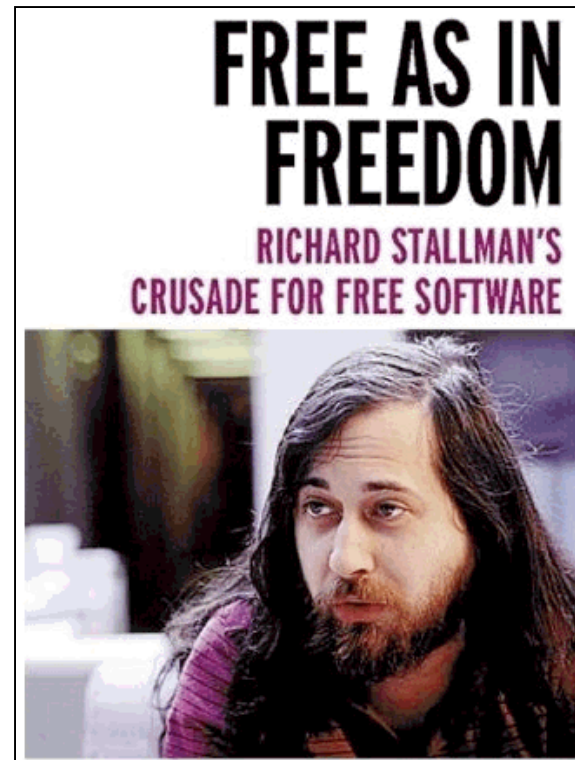
What resources?



More than just cost...

we need to consider:

- usability
- durability
- accessibility
- effectiveness



-Alternate objective: free as in freedom

Licensing Initiatives



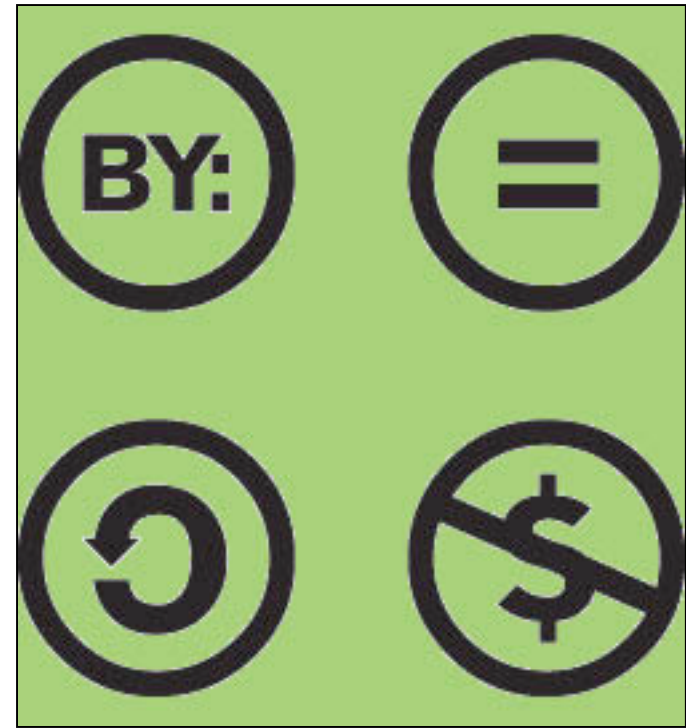
- The idea of open content licenses is similar to open source - to protect the openness using existing law

- Creative Commons

<http://creativecommons.org/>



<http://blogs.cron.com>



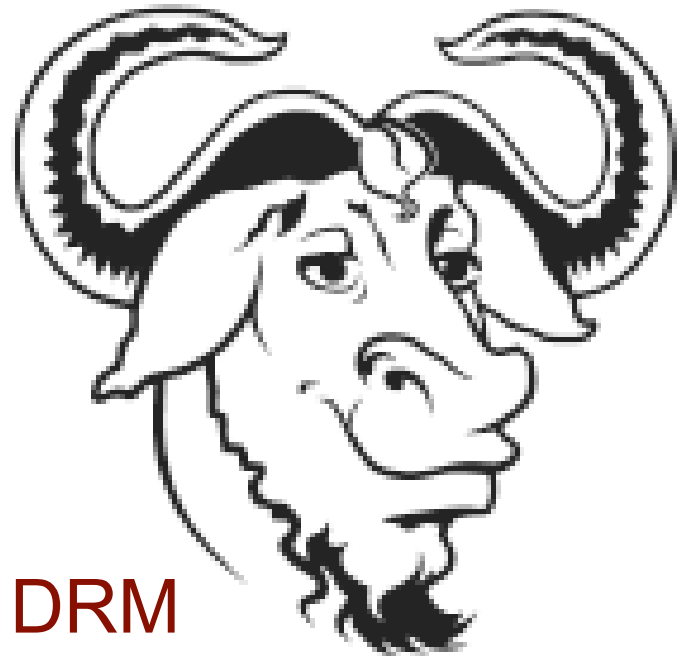
The idea is to create a mid-range of licenses between Copyright and public domain - “some rights reserved”

- GNU Free Documentation License

<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>

Conditions:

- attributions of authors
- changes must be logged
- share-alike
- unmodified sections
- no proprietary formats or DRM



OPENCONTENT

- Open Publication License

<http://opencontent.org/openpub/>

- Attribution
- Notification of modifications
- No-derivatives clause allowed



David Wiley

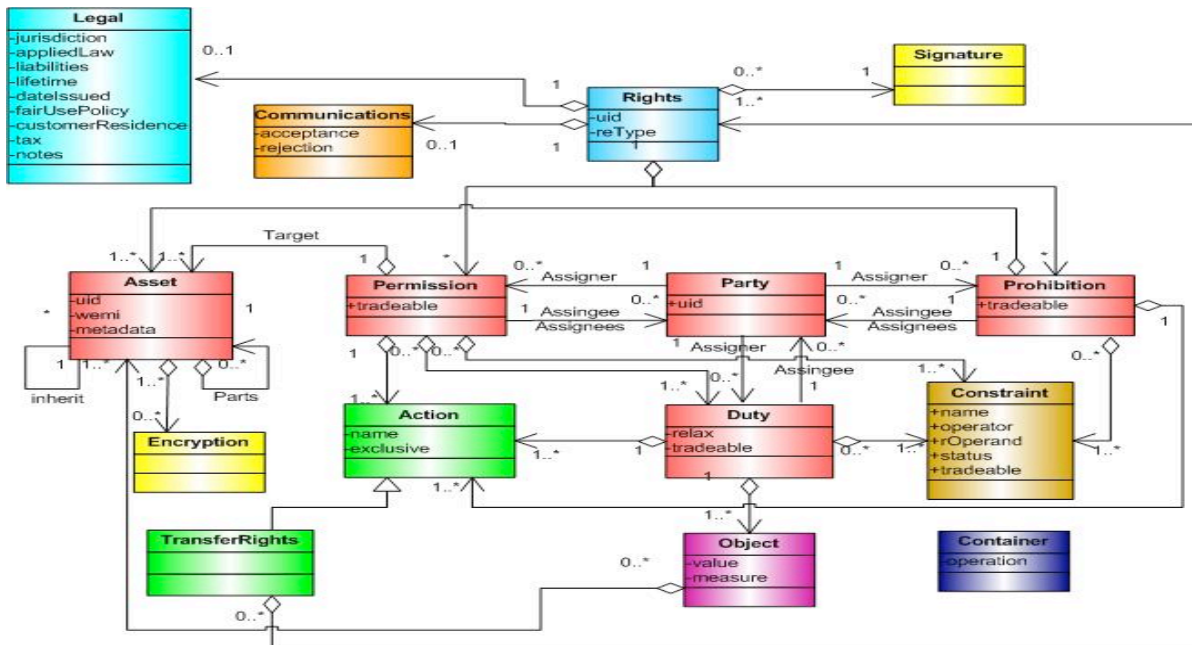
<http://opencontent.org/blog/>

- Stumbling block: mixing licenses

	Licenses that can be used for derivative work or adaptation						
Original Work	by	by-nc	by-nc-nd	by-nc-sa	by-nd	by-sa	pd
pd	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
by	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
by-nc		Green	Green	Green			
by-nc-nd							
by-nc-sa				Green			
by-nd							
by-sa						Green	

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Frequently_Asked_Questions

- Stumbling block: license expression



Three ways to express licenses:

- Ccrel - <http://wiki.creativecommons.org/CcREL>
- XrML (AKA MPEG-REL) - <http://www.xrml.org/>
- ODRL - <http://odrl.net/>

Open Courseware Initiatives

- MIT OpenCourseWare

<http://ocw.mit.edu>

Home

✉ Email this page



Unlocking Knowledge,
Empowering Minds.

Free lecture notes, exams,
and videos from MIT.
No registration required.

> Learn more

"It puts a previously
untouchable subject
within reach for anyone
who is interested."

Wendy Ermold
Self Learner
United States

> Read more

- * OCW is not an MIT education.
- * OCW does not grant degrees or certificates.
- * OCW does not provide access to MIT faculty.
- * Materials may not reflect entire content of the course.

- Open Courseware Consortium

<http://ocwconsortium.org/>



Blog - <http://ocwblog.org/>

- **Connexions**

<http://cnx.org/>



Find resources - author resources

Example - Collaborative Statistics

<http://cnx.org/content/col10522/latest/>

CNXML

<http://cnx.org/content/m9000/latest/>

- OER Commons

<http://www.oercommons.org>

Created by IKSME - <http://www.iskme.org/>



“single point of access through which educators, students, and all learners can search, browse, evaluate, download, and discuss open educational resources (OER)”

Includes review,
tag features...

- Open Content Alliance

<http://www.opencontentalliance.org>



“Unlike with commercial scan plans, there are no restrictions on public domain books scanned by OCA members. Users are not forced to use proprietary interfaces, and OCA scans are not hidden from rival search engines. Books scanned under the BLC initiative will be hosted by the Internet Archive...” <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6484069.html>

Internet Archive: <http://www.archive.org>

OurMedia: <http://www.ourmedia.org/>

- **OpenLearn**

<http://www.open.ac.uk>



Creating a new world of learning



OpenLearn Autumn 2007

Provides complete Open University online courses

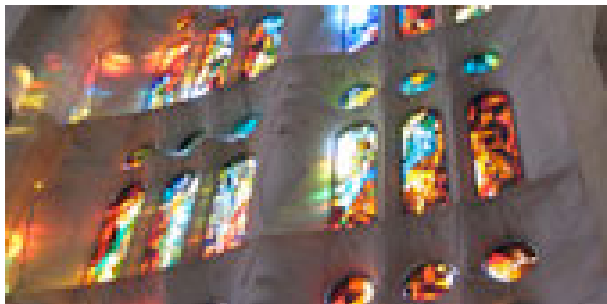
Provides ways for participants to contribute as well as take courses

- **Intute**

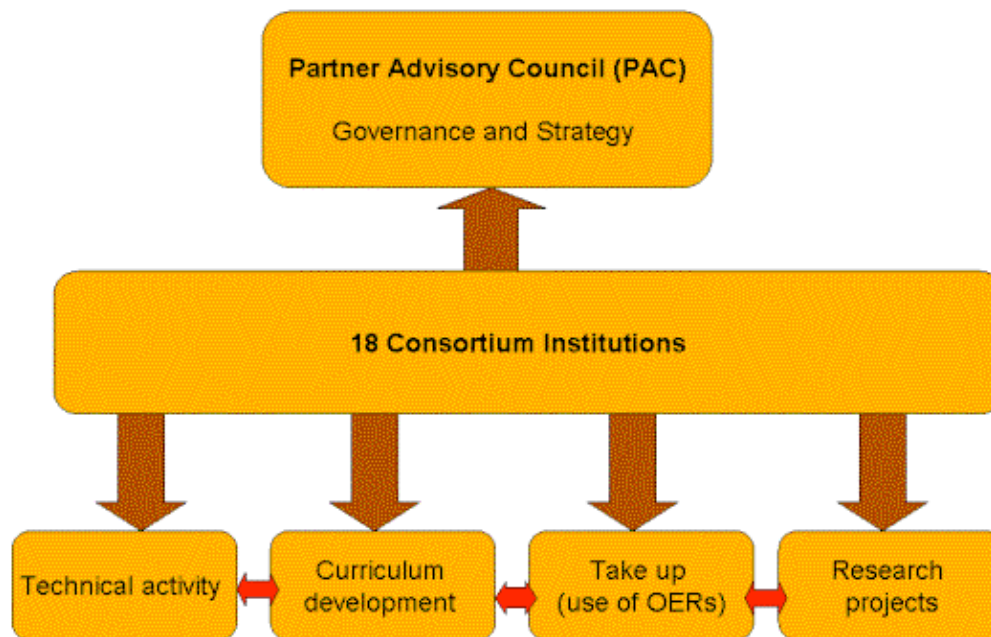
<http://www.intute.ac.uk/>



“Intute is a free online service providing you with a database of hand selected Web resources for education and research.”



The Funders



TESSA Activity: Differentiated input by consortium members

<http://jime.open.ac.uk/2008/03/jime-2008-03.html>

- Sustainable OERs...
 - Content only the beginning
 - Consideration of the community essential
 - Entails not just a mechanism but a *model* of production, use, distribution
 - Existing structures (centralized, financially oriented, hierarchical) are often *barriers* to OERs
 - We feel this in our communities

- Hewlett Foundation

<http://www.hewlett.org/Programs/Education/OER/>



- UNESCO OER projects

<http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org>



- Commonwealth of Learning

<http://www.col.org/colweb/site>



- learning for development
- teacher training programs
- content initiatives

Funding Models

Numerous funding models...

these vary mostly by *source*

but models have other implications

- who authors (whose point of view)?
- who controls (funds, resources)
- who distributes?

- Endowment Model

- Single large grant
- Managed by fund-holder
- Funding via interest

Eg. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

\$US 3 to 4 million fund

\$190,000 budget

- Membership Model

- Organizations join consortium
- Members pay fees
- Projects managed collectively

Eg. Sakai

Eg. MERLOT

Eg. OCW Consortium

• Donations Model

- Donations solicited from public
- May involve project membership
(by individuals)
- Project managed by a board

Eg. Wikipedia foundation
Apache foundation

- Conversion Model

"In the Conversion model, you give something away for free and then convert the consumer of the freebie to a paying customer."

Sterne and Herring (2005)

• Contributor Pay

- Creators of resources pay for 'publication'
- Resources are managed by the publisher

charges for this process will be met by funding bodies, such as the Wellcome Trust - 1% of their annual spend.

Eg. Public Library of Science

But also

Think about YouTube, Blogger, Flickr (pro)

• Sponsorship Model

- The 'public television' model
- Resources are 'sponsored' by donors
- Usually in return for sponsorship spot



Advertising.....?

Examples

MIT iCampus Outreach Initiative

(Microsoft) (CORE, 2005)

Stanford on iTunes project (Apple)

- Institutional Model

Examples: OpenCourseWare

Open Knowledge Initiative

OPLC

All from MIT

- Sponsoring organization pays costs
- Considered part of its 'mandate'

It usually manages it, too... and there may be side-benefits

- **Government Funding Model**

- Government funds
- Usually managed by arms-length board (but not always)
- Intended to serve government objectives...

Examples

OLPC (again)

Canada SchoolNet

Universities, colleges, schools

OERs 'In The Wild'



<http://www.alpenglowart.com/artist.asp>

- YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/>


Kiwi!




<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdUUx5FdySs>

- **Flickr**

<http://www.flickr.com>


✓ We found 376 results matching **oer**, licensed under the Creative Commons^[x]. Slideshow 


View: [Most relevant](#) • [Most recent](#) • [Most interesting](#) Show: [Details](#) • [Thumbnails](#)



Importance in open educational resources OER of Chaos Theory in SEO by [judy_breck](#)


Tagged with [chaos](#), [open](#), [educational](#), [resources](#) ...
Uploaded [May 19, 2008](#)

 See [more of judy_breck's photos](#), or visit her [profile](#).



oer by [leighblackall](#)

★ 1 fave
Tagged with [oer](#)
Uploaded [June 19, 2008](#)

 See [more of leighblackall's photos](#), or visit his [profile](#).

<http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=oer&l=cc&ss=0&ct=0&w=all>

- Google

http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en

(e.g. youtube.com, .edu)

[Date, usage rights, numeric range, and more](#)

Date: (how recent the page is)

[Usage rights:](#)

Where your keywords show up:

Region:

Numeric range: ..
(e.g. \$1500..\$3000)

[SafeSearch:](#) Off On

- **Wikipedia**

<http://en.wikipedia.org>

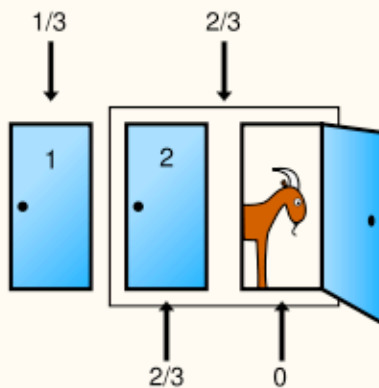


- **Wikiversity**

http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Main_Page

Today's Featured Project

Economic Classroom Experiments



Economic Classroom Experiments is a growing collection (currently 23 resources) of lesson plans and ideas for games in the economics classroom. The experiments are suitable for both secondary and tertiary education. Economics teachers and others are welcome to add to the collection.

[Visit this resource](#) · [see more featured content](#)

[view](#) · [discuss](#)

Educational Picture of the Day

Washington Crossing the Delaware



This painting is an example of the genre of *history painting*. It shows George Washington crossing the Delaware River in 1776. History painting was a major movement in art from the 17th to 19th centuries. As the paintings are now in the public domain, copies of them are ideal for inclusion in educational history

- **Curriki**

<http://www.curriki.org>

cur·ric·u·la + wi·ki  cur·rik·i

Find

Collect lesson plans, teaching activities, student worksheets and more.

Featured Resource:



Panwapa Movie Play-Along

Contribute

Share your favorite curriculum resources to improve education globally.

Recently Reviewed:



Article Reaction Assignment

Connect

Collaborate with teachers in your school, or educators around the world.

Featured Group:



WebQuest Builders

- WikiEducator

<http://www.wikieducator.org>

The purpose of WikiEducator

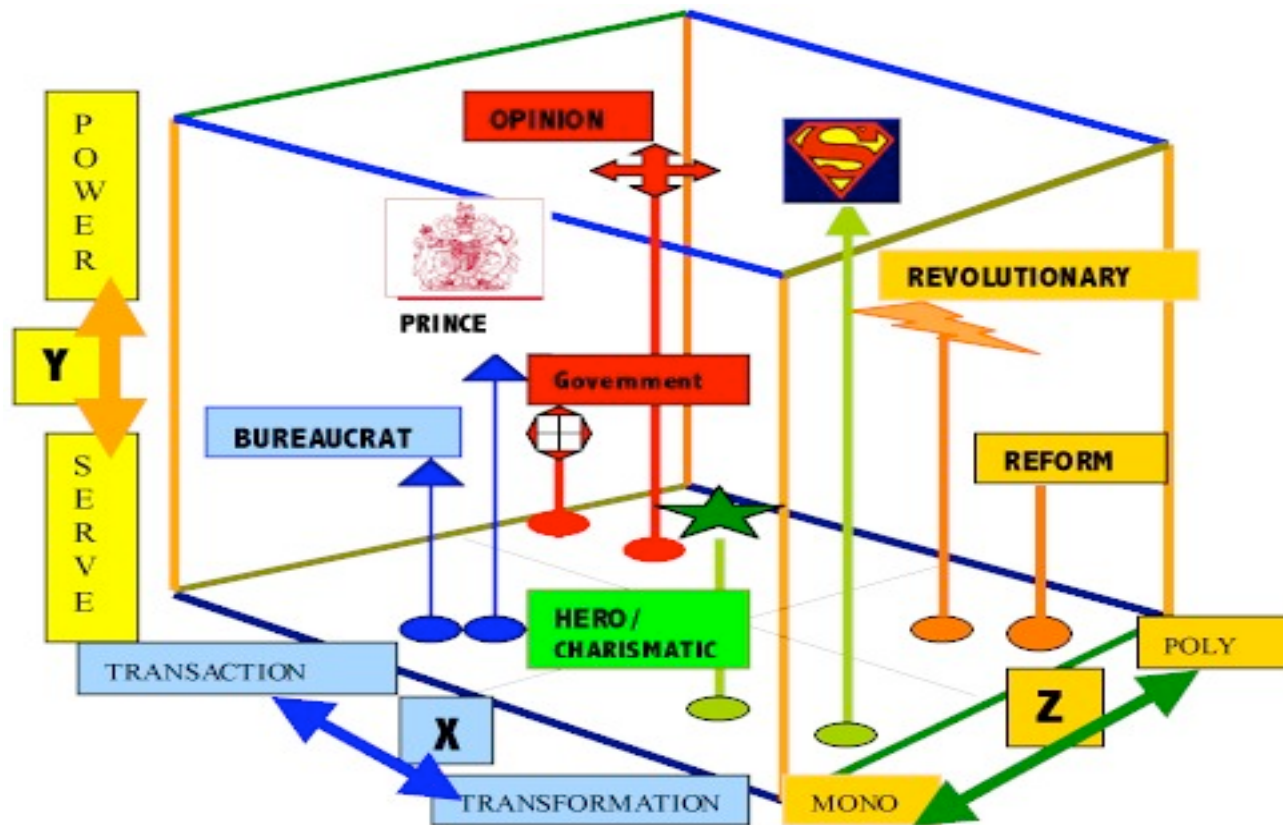
The WikiEducator is an evolving community intended for the collaborative:

- **planning** of education projects linked with the development of **free content** [↗](#);
- **development** of free content on **Wikieducator** for e-learning;
- work on building **open education resources** (OERs) on **how** to create OERs.
- networking on **funding proposals** developed as free content.

Join us today ~ You'll be glad you did!

Please join us in developing free and open educational content for the world!

Dimensions of Openness



<http://cbae.nmsu.edu/~dboje/teaching/338/traits.htm>

- **Technical**

- Driven by financial, other considerations, eg. Learning objects
- 'Free Use' vs 'Adapt and Localize'
- Access and usability – eg., browse, search, data-mining
- Impact on 'open' – eg., federations

- **Content Models**

- 'Sustainable' often means 'localizable' and tantemount to 'reusable'
- Hence, requires integration – which in turn requires semantic similarity
- Questions of licensing, etc.

- **Provider / Consumer**
 - Content may reflect values of the provider – cultural imperialism
 - Shift in emphasis toward collaborative development
 - Sharing in all directions, north and south
 - Hence, need to think of OERs with respect to the community that uses them

- **Staffing**

- Traditional: hiring of professional staff to design and produce OERs
- Question of cost, use of volunteers
- This raises the question of motives (and again changes 'sustainable')
- Non-financial incentives

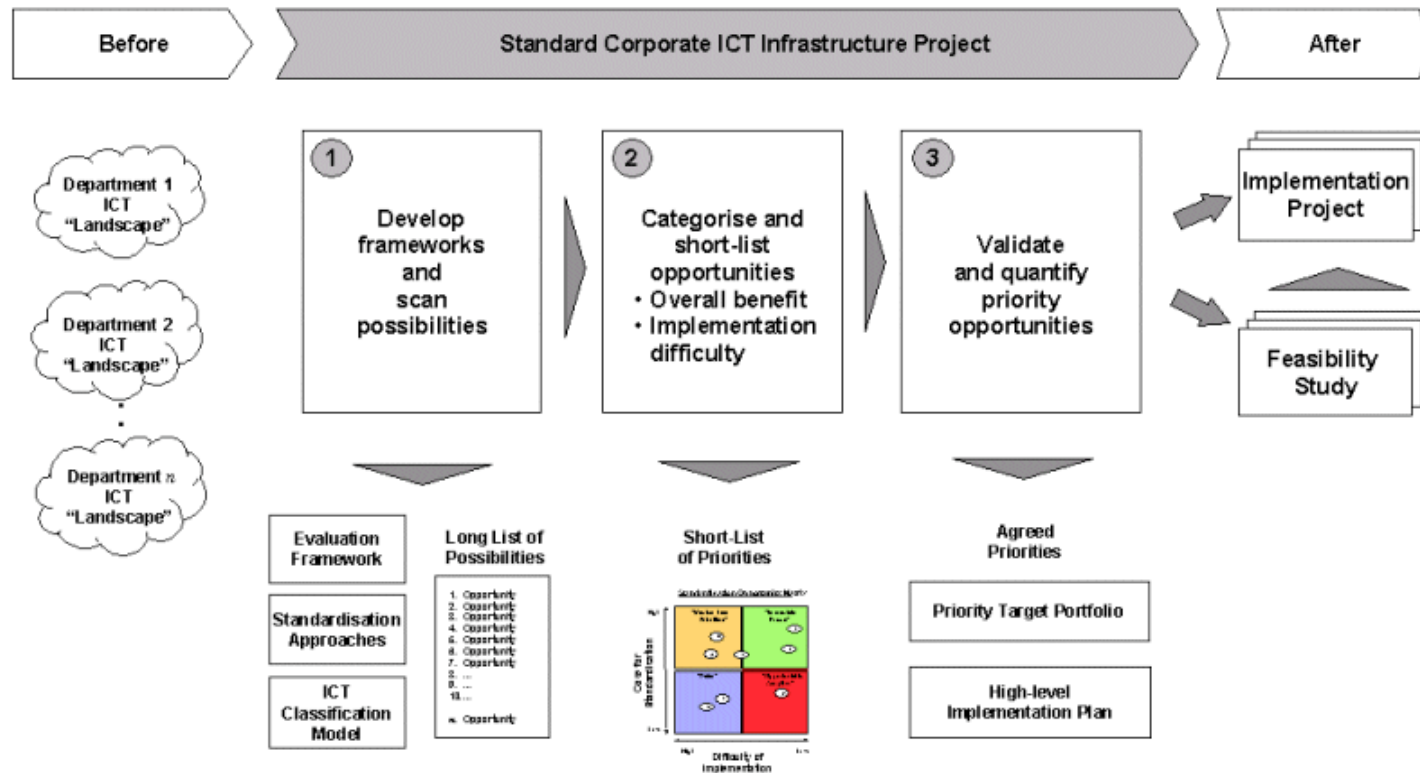
- Volunteer Organization
 - Community model – emphasis on individual members (eg. OSS)
 - Emergent model – emphasis on process (eg., Slashdot, eBay)
 - Producer-consumer model vs co-producer model – Web 2.0

- **Workflow**

- Traditional – design, use, evaluation
- Quality: peer review? MERLOT
- Rethink the idea of ‘producing’
- Decentralize, disaggregate
- The ‘use’ of a resource constitutes the ‘production’ of a new resource

Infrastructure Initiatives

THREE-STEP APPROACH TO DETERMINE PRIORITY TARGET PORTFOLIO





- **Open Archives Initiative**

<http://www.openarchives.org/>

“develops and promotes interoperability standards that aim to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content.”

OAIster - <http://www.oaister.org/>

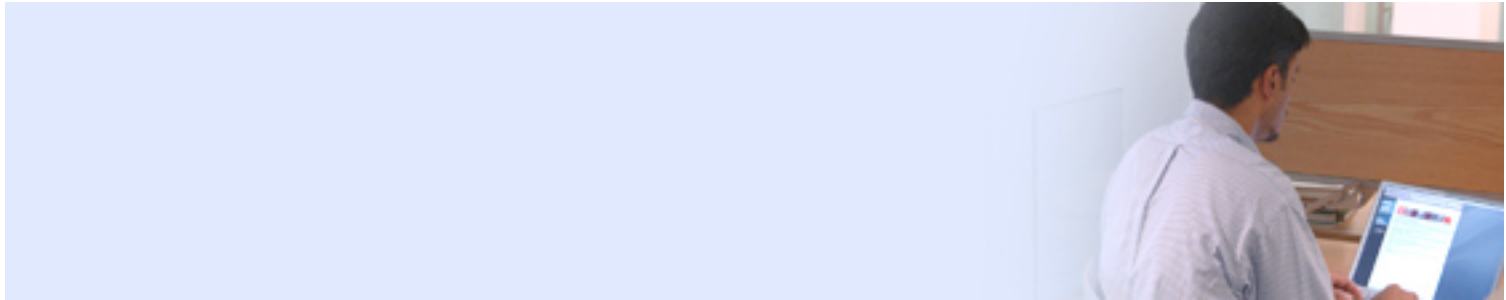
DSpace - <http://www.dspace.org/>

PubMed - <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/about/oai.html>

- **SWORD**

<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/reppres/tools/sword>

(Simple Web Service Offering Repository Deposit)



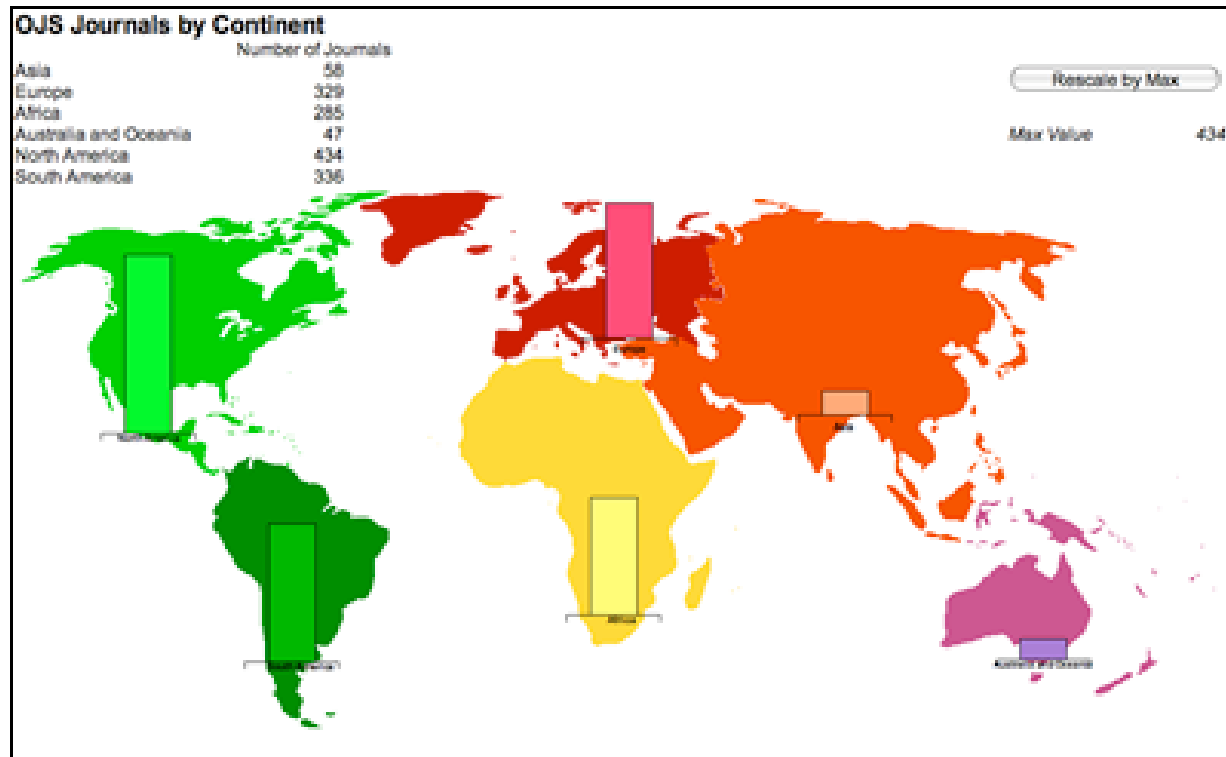
“The project aims to improve the efficiency and quality of repository deposit and to diversify and expedite the options for timely population of repositories with content whilst promoting a common deposit interface and supporting the Information Environment principles of interoperability.”

Public Knowledge Project



- <http://pkp.sfu.ca/>
- University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University

- Open Journal System



<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>

The screenshot shows the MEDSUR website with a blue header and a sidebar on the left. The main content area features a table of contents for Volume 4, No 1 (January). The table lists several articles with their titles and authors. The sidebar contains navigation links and a search box.

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The screenshot shows the website for 'Health and Human Rights: An International Journal'. It features a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Archives, Blog, Perspectives, and Advanced Search. Below the menu is a photograph of two young children in a field of sunflowers. Underneath the photo is a subscription form with fields for Name and Email address, and a Submit button. The main content area displays the 'Table of Contents, Vol 10, No 1 (2008), Health and Human Rights' and an 'Introduction' section with the text 'From the editors:' and a small image of a sunflower.

<http://www.hhrjournal.org/index.php/hhr>

<http://www.medisur.sld.cu/index.php/>

- Open Conference System

<http://pkp.sfu.ca/ocs>

The International Multisensory Research Forum (IMRF) provides a platform for scientists from around the world who are interested in how the different senses interact and how this input is integrated to contribute with other systems. The IMRF seeks to include scientific input from many different disciplines and operates with a variety of opportunities including symposia, tutorials, seminars, workshops, roundtables, posters, and oral presentations.

- Attention
- Perception
- Developmental Psychology
- Language
- Neuropsychology & Brain
- Engineering & Psychology
- Attentional Conflicts
- Emotion
- Memory
- Developmental Psychology/Forum (DPF)

University of Hamburg

Navigation menu:

- Home Page
- Abstracts
- Program
- Registration
- Registration
- Registration & Fees
- Registration & Fees
- About the Conference
- Contact
- Contact
- Conference Poster

Search: _____

Log In

<http://imrf.mcmaster.ca/IMRF/ocs/index.php/meetings/2008/>

- Open Archives Harvester

<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=harvester>



<http://carl-abrc-oai.lib.sfu.ca/>

Resources

- OER - The Way Forward

http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=OER:_the_Way_Forward

- UNESCO OER Toolkit

http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=UNESCO_OER_Toolkit

- Hewlett OER Report

<http://www.hewlett.org/Programs/Education/OER/OpenContent/Hewlett+OER+Report.htm>

- JIME - Researching Open Content

<http://jime.open.ac.uk/2008/>

- Open Educational Resources at OECD

<http://oer.wsis-edu.org/oecd-oer.html>

- OER handbook for Educators

http://wikieducator.org/OER_Handbook/educator_version_one

Barriers...

- Who gets funded (indiv. vs inst.)
- Scale of funding (large vs. small)
- Type of project (producer, centralized)
- Overhead (eg., licensing)
- Justification, quality (= overhead)
- Narrow view of 'sustainable' (=