

# Open Access and Open Learning

Stephen Downes

October 22, 2013

# Open...

supports knowledge creation



free!!!

# Available

barrier-free

sharing

## Not closed

flexible

no limits



easy to get to  
accessible

information sharing

seeing the parts

SESAME!

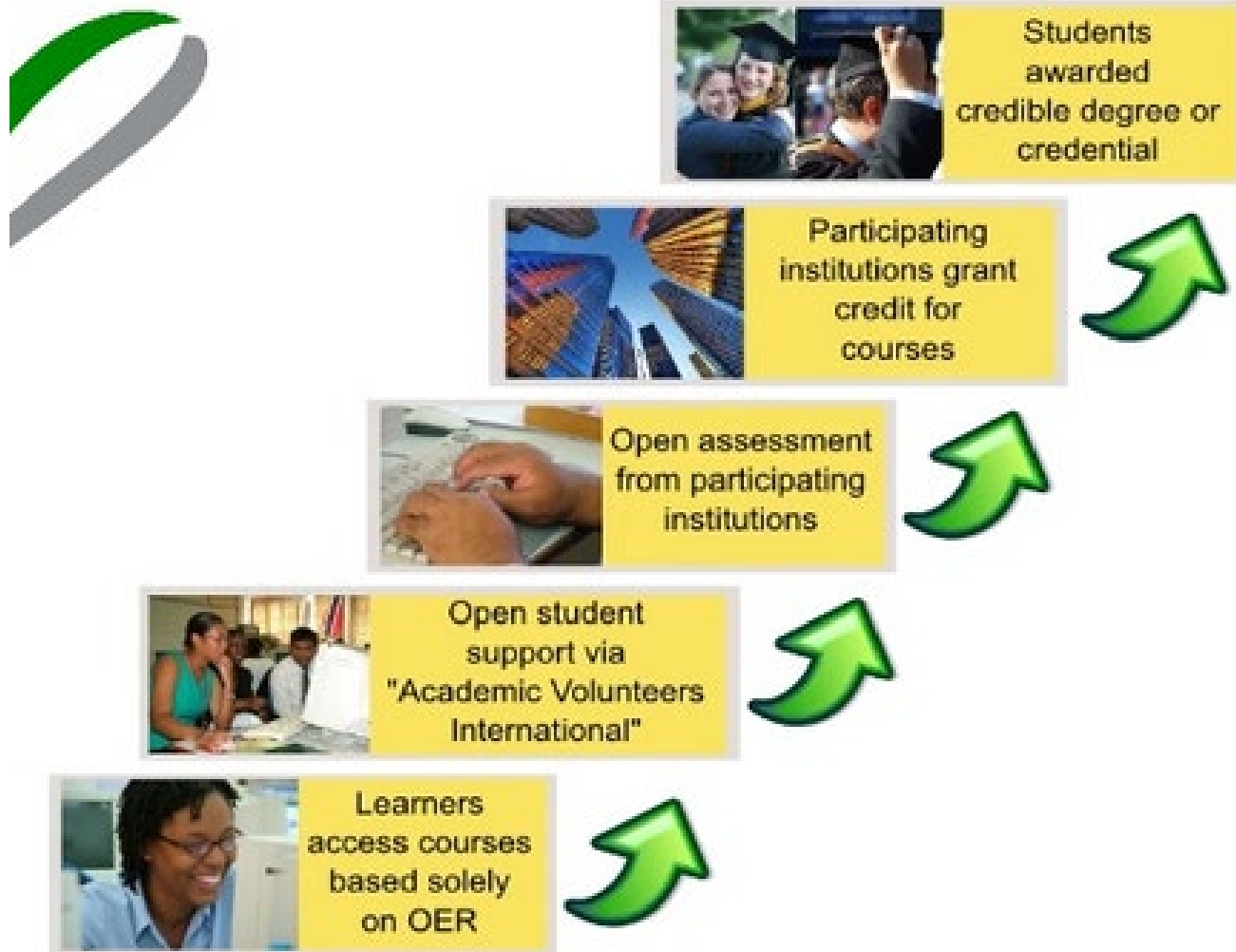
available to others

flexible

treasure trove but dangers lurk if not  
careful

- Open Source – GPL – Stallman’s four freedoms
- OERs – UNESCO – “teaching, learning or research materials that are in the public domain or released with an intellectual property license that allows for free use, adaptation, and distribution.”
- Open Archives Initiative – “interoperability standards that aim to facilitate the efficient dissemination of e-prints and other electronic content...”

# The OERu 'Logic Model'



# Open Learning...

flipped classroom- students being  
knowledge creators too

sharing

personal learning

freedom

learn by interest...not by program...learn  
as you grow

civil society

learning at your own pace in your own way

sharing and collaborating

peer learning

open to the world

info & ideas out there for the world to use, build  
open etc.

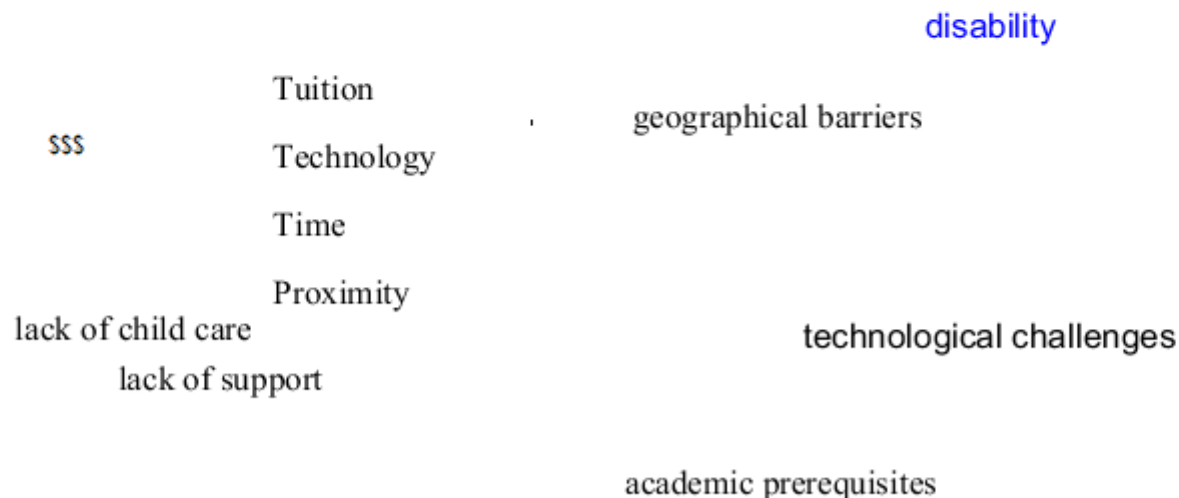
independant study autodidactic

self-guided

maybe a bit confusing sometimes

# Open Admissions

- Originated in Open University, Athabasca University
- No formal requirements for course admission
- Issues: preparedness, completion



# Open Content...

## Types

Textbooks  
video  
google docs  
publications  
blogs  
vulnerable  
photos  
photos  
code  
strong  
open source - codes are available to users

## Forms of Access

NO LIMITS

Creative Commons licensing and OER

Free for remixing without permission or royalty

in a file format that isn't  
proprietary

has an IP license that permits reuse and  
remixing

you can access it, use it, change it, make it your own sometimes

you can share it with other people ... sometimes

- Originally thought of as similar to open source
- Creative Commons licenses – by, nc, sa, nd clauses
- Open access versus open use

Lawrence Lessig - Creative Lawyers

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/documents/sherpaplusdocs/Nottingham-colour-guide.pdf>



# Open Instruction...

nature-based learning

co-learning

sometimes you're learning; sometimes you're teaching  
(Like Marx when he said you can be a fisherman in the morning & a scholar in the pm)

highly interactive

roles blurring

mentoring

"gogy" - not androgogy - not pedagogy

sharing by/for all - community

Shared instruction - teachbacks from students and teachers

mooc

anybody can teach ... anybody can jump into the role

We are all mentors whether we realize it or not...

- Early open instruction – the Coursera course, the Wiley Wiki
- MOOCs as open instruction
- Elements of open instruction:
  - Resources
  - Lectures
  - Activities and projects

Open Design...

- ‘Learning Design’ = the organization and structure of a course – eg., IMS LD
- Open design – enabling participants to create their own organization and structure
  - Example: touring a city vs being taken on a tour
  - The course as ‘environment’ rather than ‘book’
- Open design in MOOCs

# Open Assessment

- What is assessment?
- The paucity of ‘learning contracts’
- Assessment - criteria and metrics
  - Content based – formal learning
  - Task based – informal learning
- “You decide what counts as success”

# Open Credentials

- The argument for closed credentials
- Badges?
- ‘You are what you do’
  - Privacy and security considerations



- Stephen Downes
- <http://www.downes.ca>