Open Research Online

The Open University's repository of research publications
and other research outputs

Creating open educational resources: a workshop

Conference or Workshop Item

oro.open.ac.uk

Creating Open Educational Resources: a workshop

Tina Wilson, Rose Webb, Giselle Ferreira and Teresa Connolly

OpenLearn, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK5 7AS
martina.wilson@open.ac.uk

r.a.webb@open.ac.uk

g.m.d.s.ferreira@open.ac.uk

t.connolly@open.ac.uk

Abstract

This session aims to provide an opportunity for conference participants to learn about and share their knowledge and expertise in the creation of Open Educational Resources (OERs). In the first part of the session, the convenors will share their experience from the OpenLearn project, describing some examples from different disciplines and topic areas, with a view to illustrating broad areas of concern as well as opportunities for re-use and repurposing. The main part of the session, however, will offer participants the opportunity to co-create an OER, share their views and experiences and discuss the benefits, limitations and issues they envisage.

Format

Workshop.

Duration

1½ hours (to allow enough time to cover the three sections of the workshop).

Aims

1. To share some of the expertise gathered by OpenLearn academics in respect of the practice of creating OERs and, thus, help to promote OpenLearn and OERs

2. To provide a forum for conference participants both novice and expert to learn about and share their knowledge of creating OERs

3. To foster discussion and community ties amongst conference participants

Abstract

This session aims to provide an opportunity for conference participants to learn about and share their knowledge and expertise in creating Open Educational Resources (OERs). This session will be of value to both novices and experts. Whilst some attention will be given to the specific technologies and platform used on OpenLearn, these will be approached from a pedagogical perspective, i.e. the focus will be on practical questions of interest to educators using such tools and only as appropriate to illustrate particular points.

OERs are being made available freely for worldwide use by a growing number of institutions. OpenLearn is one such initiative (launched 25 October 2006) and access continues to increase. OpenLearn combines the twin sites of the LearningSpace and the LabSpace. The LearningSpace is aimed mainly at learners while the LabSpace is aimed mainly at educators. The focus of this session is on the creation of OERs for the LearningSpace and the identification of key elements of Open Educational Resources (OERs) with reference to the wider eLearning context.

In the first part of the session, the convenors will share their own experience of OpenLearn. Each convenor will, in turn, present a short selection of examples taken from the disciplines within their own area of expertise and/or practice within OpenLearn, followed by a short summary to highlight the broad areas of concern as well as some opportunities for re-use and repurposing.

The main part of the session, however, will offer participants the opportunity to share their own views and experiences whilst co-creating a sample OpenLearn OER. The audience will be split into groups and given a twofold task. Firstly, they will be asked to examine and discuss an Open University extract or OpenLearn unit available for repurposing and prepare an outline to guide the repurposing work. The second stage of the task will focus on a discussion of the benefits, limitations and issues that may arise.

The final part of the session will consist of a plenary debriefing, when participants will be asked to share group solutions and ideas with each other. This will provide an opportunity to discuss areas of concern, issues that arise from the activity and more broadly from the experience of co-creating a sample OpenLearn OER.