

# Using Open Production of Course Content to make a Difference



oer  
foundation



Wayne Mackintosh

From “sharing to Learn”  
to “learning to Share”



Anthony Mackintosh

# An outstanding ODL pioneer

*Athabasca University is dedicated to the **removal of barriers** that restrict access to and success in university-level study and to increasing equality of educational opportunity for adult learners worldwide.*

**Excellence | Openness**  
**Flexibility | Innovation**



[http://wikieducator.org/File:AU\\_Flags.png](http://wikieducator.org/File:AU_Flags.png)

# The OER Foundation

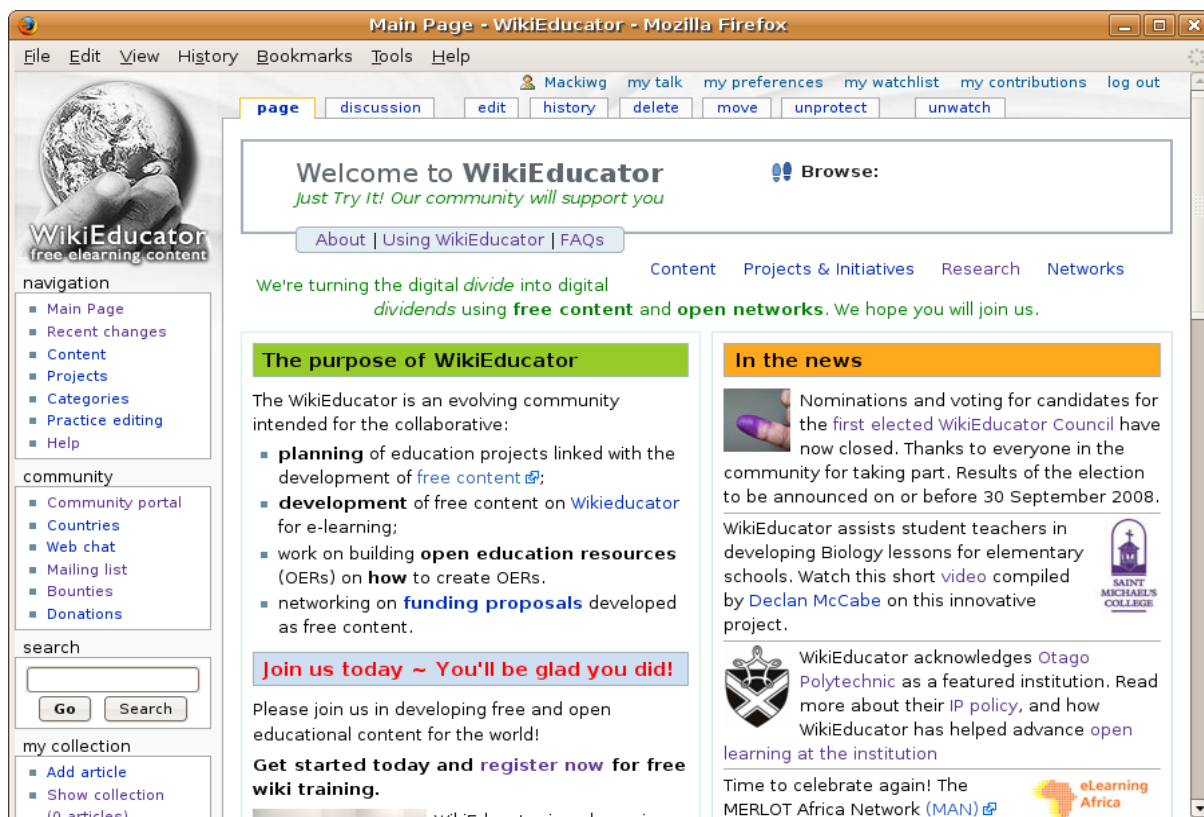
The Open Education Resource (OER) Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides leadership, networking and support for educators and educational institutions to achieve **their** objectives through Open Education.



*“OER is a sustainable and renewable resource”*



# WikiEducator



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



Voted best educational wiki, Steven Downes, Dec 2007



Inaugural recipient of the award for Exemplary Open Education Resource (OER) practices

# Learning4Content workshops



> 4 700 educators

> 100 workshops

> 130 Countries

# A return to the core values of education

WE MUST BE FREE  
WE MUST BE OPEN

## Share, Remix, Reuse

“Legitimate plagiarism?”

**Access to this page was blocked.**

**You may not view this page.**

<http://www.en.wikipedia.org>

<http://www.youtube.com>

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://commons.wikimedia.org>



# Crossroads for OER futures

OPEN web

OPEN content

OPEN philanthropy

OPEN everything

OER

Disruptive technology?

Scalable?

Sustainable?



# Innovation & new technology

## Ice harvesting

Once the largest industry in America  
In 1850 – invention of “artificial” ice makers

## (Reusable) Digital learning resources

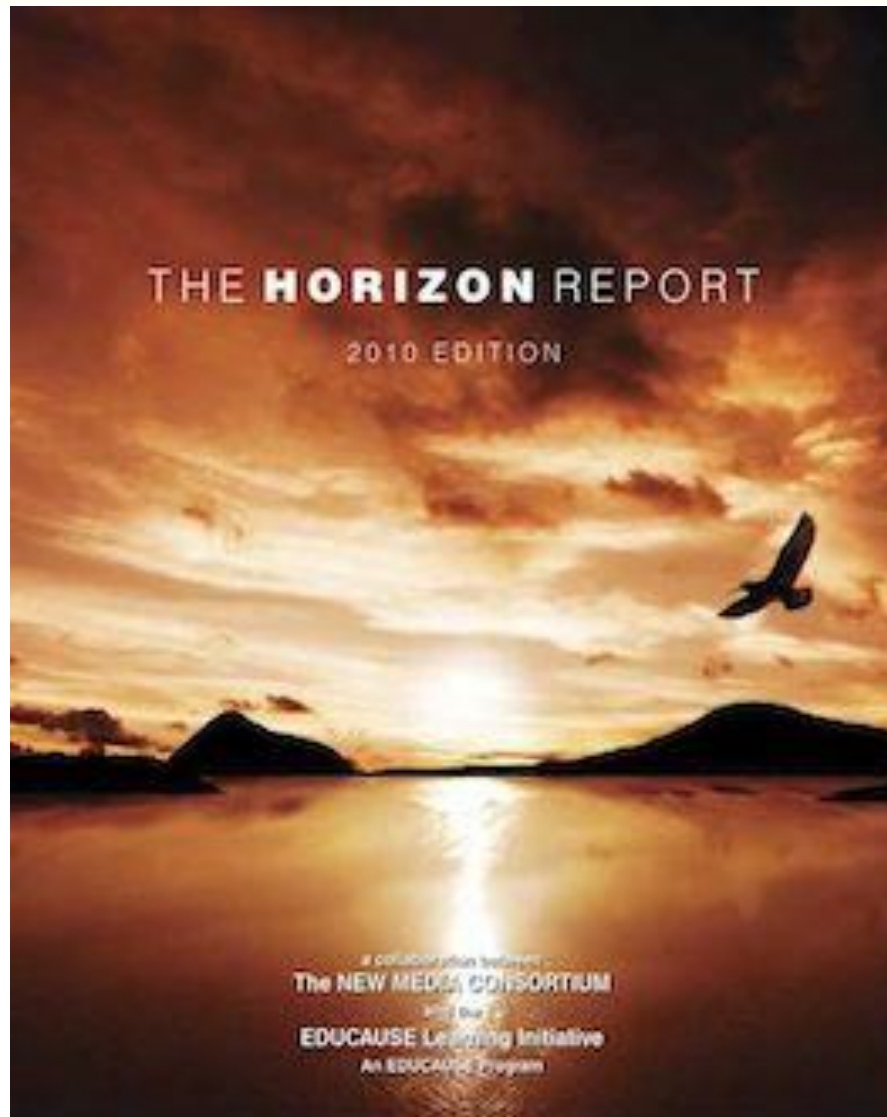
Ice harvesting or new  
innovation?



Elementary Tech Teacher, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7855946@N08/3264547221/>

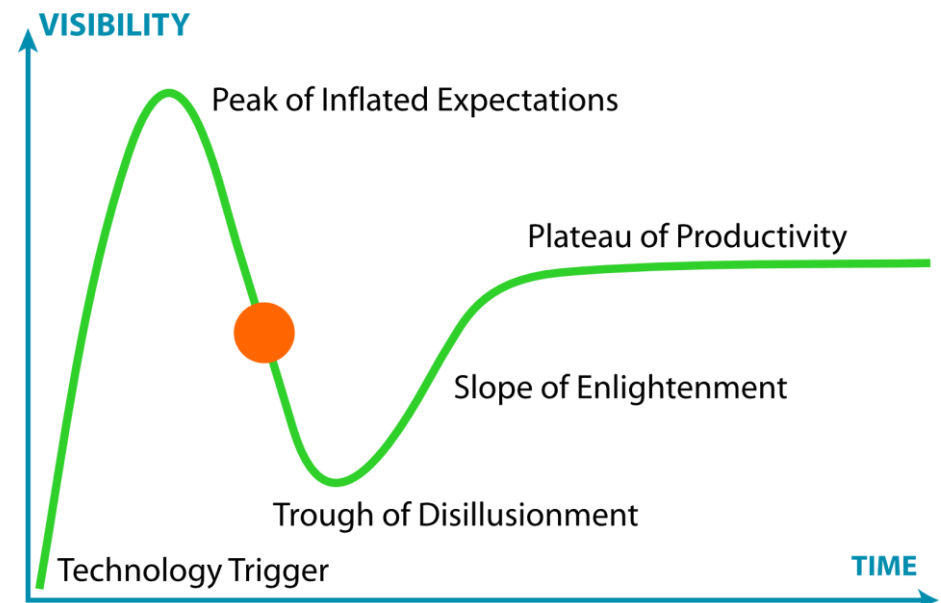


# Technology futures research



## Technologies to watch

Open content  
Mobile computing  
Electronic books



# the business of OPEN

Demand | Supply  
Distribution

how much does it cost?  
how much will we save?  
who is going to pay?

DIGITAL NETWORKS

Andrew Magill <http://www.flickr.com/photos/amagill/3366720659/in/photostream/>

Stuart Pilbrow <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stuartpilbrow/2942333106/in/photostream/>

Unuru1701 <http://www.flickr.com/photos/unuru1701/2247520563/in/photostream/>

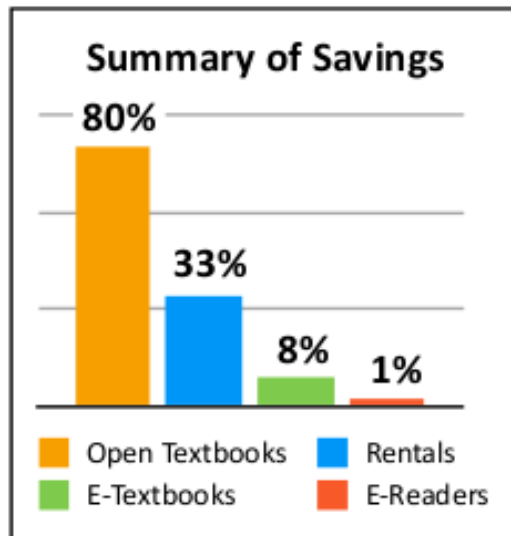
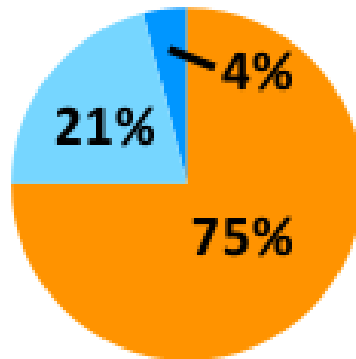


# What students think ...

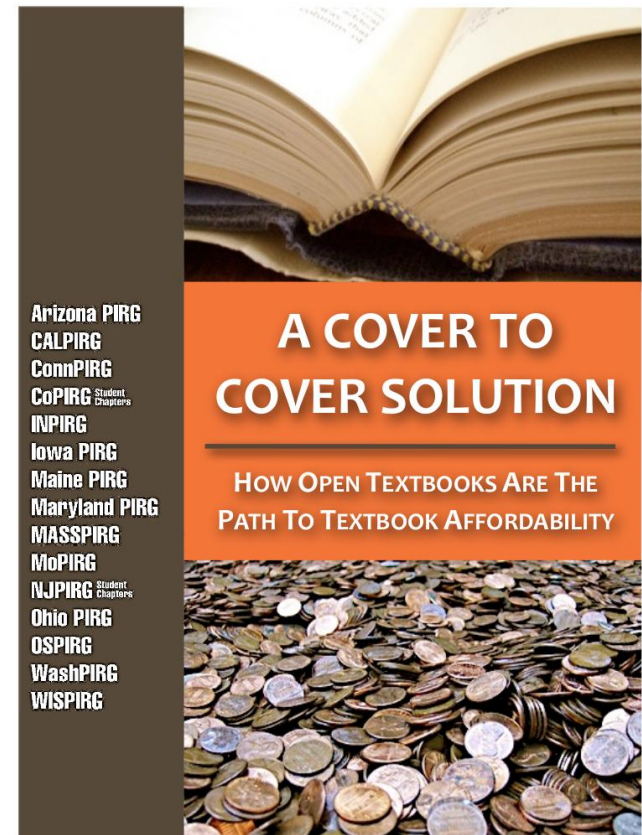
Student Public Research Interest Group (Student PIRGs) to \$184

## Textbook Format Preference

- Print
- Digital (e-books)
- Digital (e-readers)

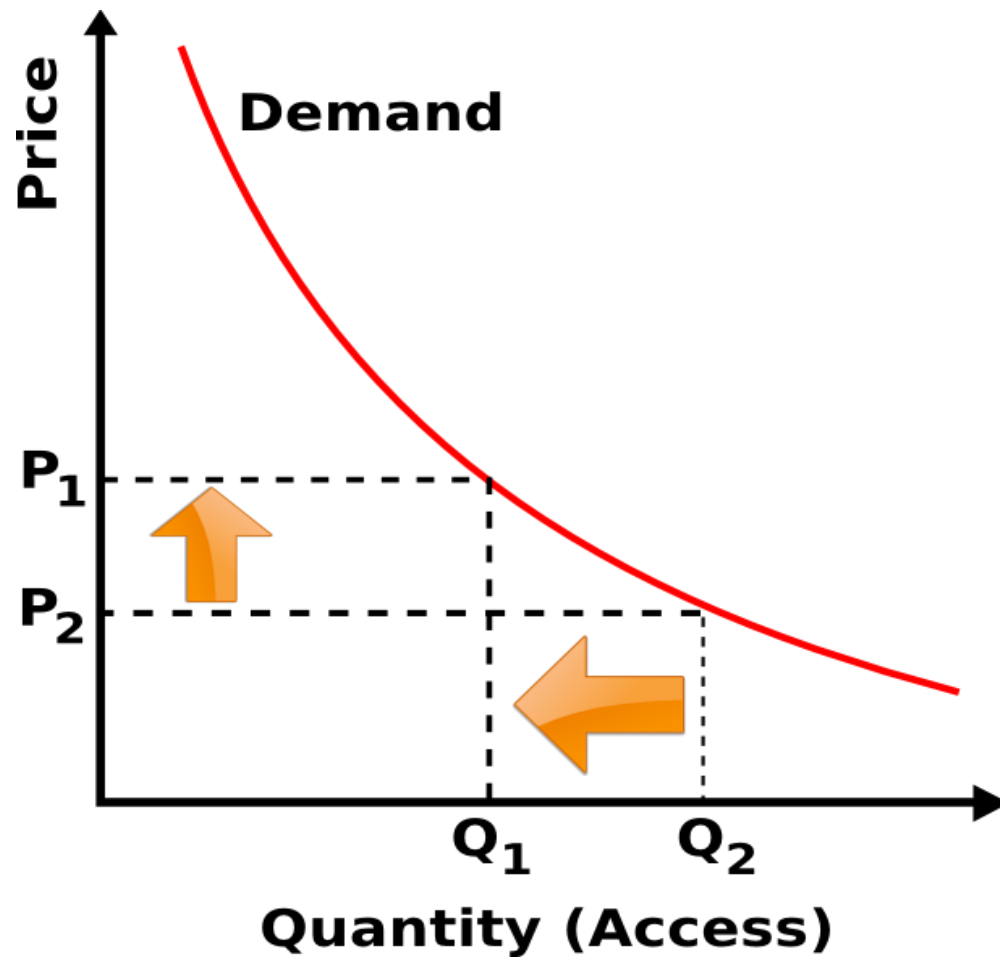


Open textbooks could reduce the average amount spent per year by 80% to \$184

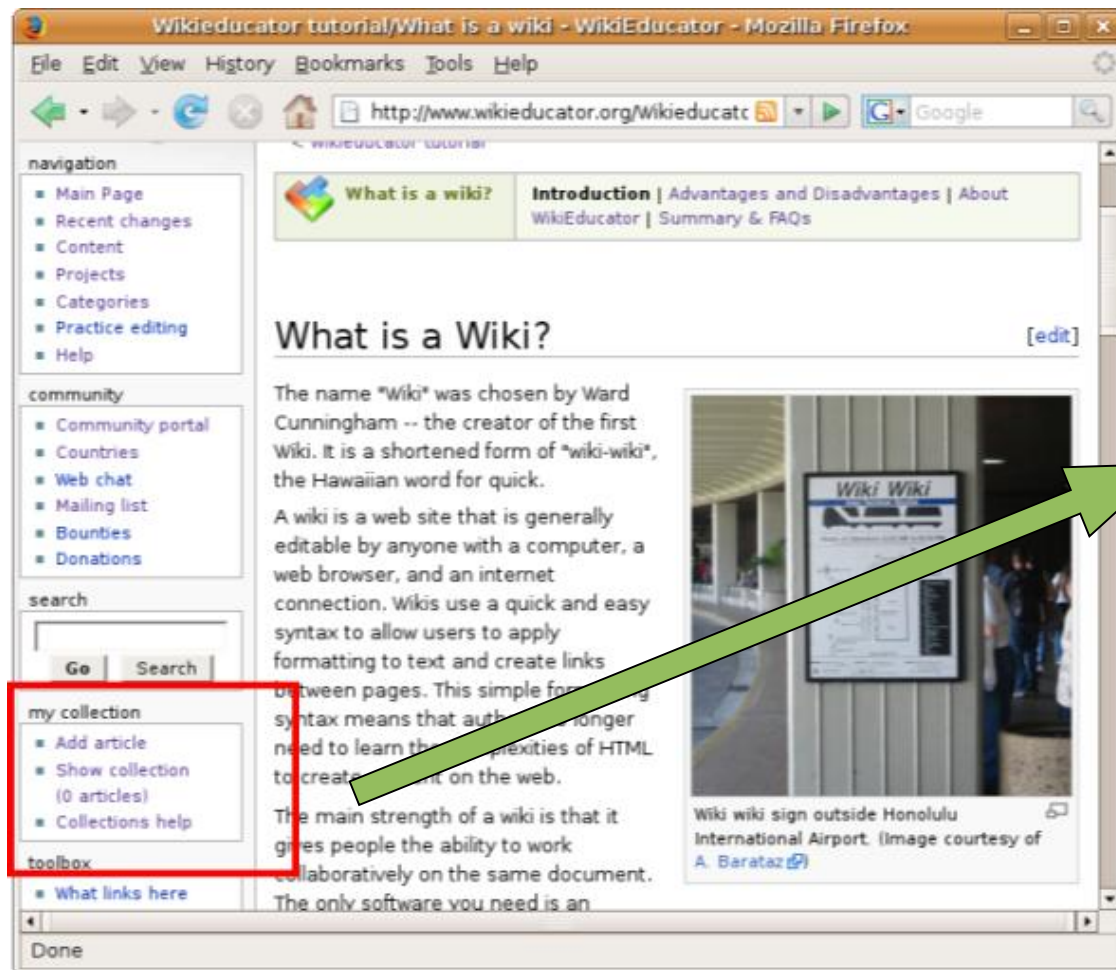


*“Major publishers need to develop new models which can create high quality textbooks without imposing excessive costs on students”*

# How do you increase price?

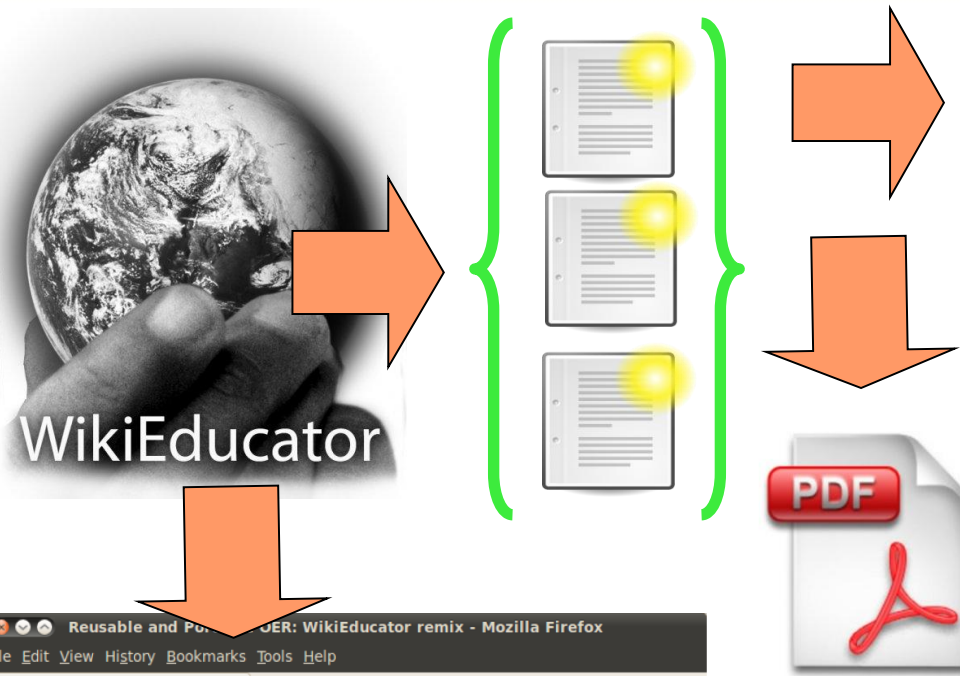


# Wikipublishing with WikiEducator



- Add article
- Create a collection
- Save a collection
- Share a collection
- Download for free or
- Order printed version

# OER remix & wiki publishing



The screenshot shows the PEDIAPRESS website with the title 'PEDIAPRESS' and a logo. Below the title are three columns, each titled 'What is a wiki' and attributed to 'OER Foundation'. The columns display different visual styles: a yellow background, a green background with a photo of a woman, and a blue background with a globe.

The screenshot shows a Blogger page titled 'WikiEducator remix'. The main text reads: 'The untapped potential of OER lies in the remix. Here we demonstrate how to embed a WikiEducator online tutorial for educators who use blogging technologies to support their online teaching. Educators can collaborate on developing OERs on WikiEducator then reuse this content in a variety of delivery technologies including learning management systems, blogs, and websites.' A red box highlights the 'Objectives: Be bold, try an edit!' section, which lists tasks like making an edit on a user page and introducing Rich Text Editing (WYSIWYG).

The screenshot shows an LMS page titled 'RPC100: What is a wiki (WikiEducator Tutorial)'. The page is titled 'Reusable and portable content' and 'LMS'. It features a navigation menu on the left and a main content area with sections for 'Introducing a Wiki', 'WikiEducator Rich Text Editor Tutorials', 'Objectives', and 'Preknowledge for Learning4Content participants'. A red box highlights the 'Objectives' section, which lists learning goals such as providing an overview of wikis and discussing their advantages and disadvantages.

# Square institutions and round OER holes

## FACT OR FICTION?

If we open our content we will lose students and competitive advantage

What about the quality of OER – can we trust it?

We need policy reform – (aka we are happy with a wait-and-see approach)

*Is the academy a master of its own destiny?*



# The cost of of free – getting started



Show the world that Open is here to stay.  
FIND OUT HOW >>

MITOPENCOURSEWARE  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NO, THANKS ✕

SIGN UP FOR OCW NEWS

Setup cost (2001 – 2008)  $\pm$ \$35 million (Lederman, 2005)

Annual cost: \$3.7 million (MIT OCW Website)



The Open University

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OpenLearn

LearningSpace

Setup cost  $>$ \$11 million (McAndrew, Scanlon, & Clow, 2010)



# An OSS business model for OER

## Free OERs (No cost & Libre)

Offer affordable institution-based OER projects

\$ value of benefits greater than cost of membership

International networking & thought leadership forums

Minimize operational cost

- Shared infrastructure (sector / level)
  - Open source everything
  - Virtual distributed organisation
- As non-profit, reinvest surplus income for OER**

CANONICAL

ubuntu<sup>®</sup>



mozilla  
FOUNDATION



Google



OpenOffice.org<sup>™</sup>



redhat.

fedora<sup>®</sup>

# Open philanthropy

## Open source everything

*Use open licenses and open file formats for all outputs*

## Share, leverage, share again

*Open source is not just about giving (**share**), it's also about receiving (**leverage**).*

## Community is everything

*Most philanthropy happens in silos.*

## Radical transparency

*See what's under the hood - Trust.*

## Listen, learn, evolve: constantly

*The Cluetrain Manifesto taught us that markets are conversations.*



*Mark Surman,  
Executive Director  
Mozilla Foundation.*



sharing to LEARN

learning to SHARE

DISCOVER...

LEARN....

CONNECT...

SHARE...

# Reincarnating the idea of the (OER) university

**Community of Educators**



WikiEducator

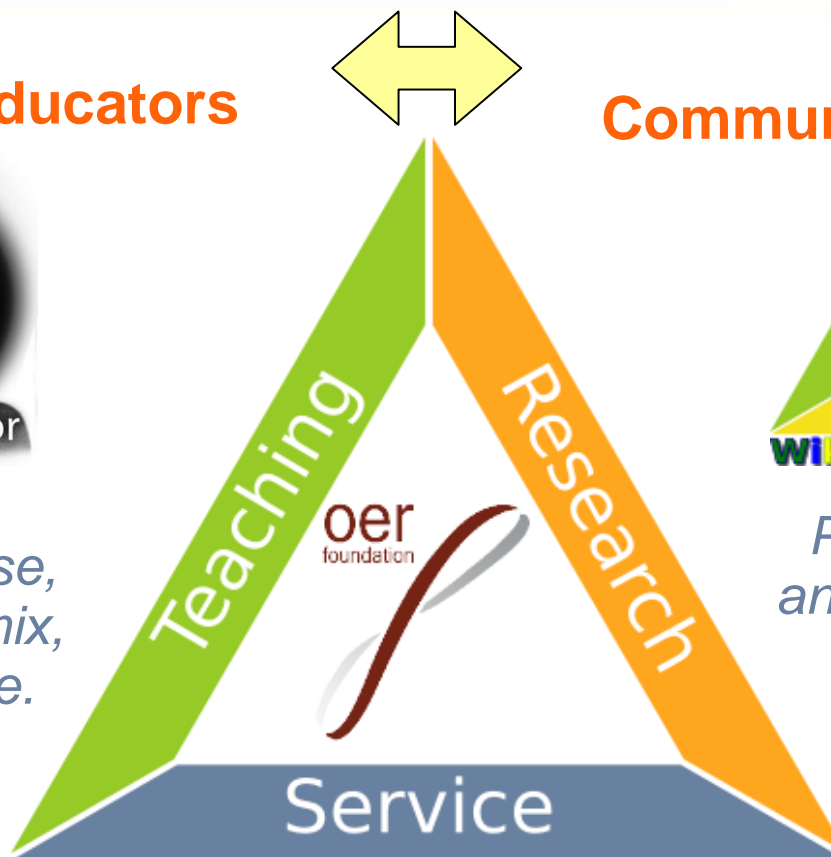
**OER**

*Create Reuse,  
Revise, Remix,  
Redistribute.*

**Community of Researchers**



*Plan, collaborate  
and share research*



**Community of Learners**



*Wikicourses eg. Learning4Content*

# Crossing the OER chasm

Sharing to **LEARN** | learning to **Share**

A transformational leadership dilemma ....

*Conformity may give you a quiet life; it may even bring you a University Chair. But all change in history, all advance, comes from the nonconformists. If there had been no trouble-makers, no dissenters, we should still be living in caves. Taylor, 1997*

OER advocates | Organisational implementation