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Improving methods and procedures for reuse and exchange of open educational resources

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Open Educational Resources (OERs) are one approach to releasing stored learning materials from closed systems into open systems. An expectation of the approach is to find new learners but also to allow two-way exchange of teaching material between education providers. However, such exchange is not straightforward to achieve and the experience has identified issues of infrastructure, technical support, pedagogic design, roles and responsibilities.

The Open University's OpenLearn initiative established a site for learners to access OERs from the university's provision and has built up methods, processes and procedures for transforming such material into a suitable form for open use. These materials are available for download; re purposing and re upload to the OpenLearn LabSpace. However, in the first year of operation relatively low numbers of new or changed courses appeared in the LabSpace. As a result, a parallel project, POCKET (Project on Open Content for Knowledge Exposition and Teaching), was tasked with finding ways for the OpenLearn model of production to be transferable to partner universities and investigate interoperability issues. POCKET is led by University of Derby and is partnered by The Open University, and Universities of Bolton and Exeter.

The three campus-based partners are transforming existing and new course material for open use in the LabSpace whilst building on and improving upon the OpenLearn processes and procedures. This paper reports on the key evaluation findings from the POCKET project, based on the report prepared for JISC. The project is evaluated using the following data collection tools:

- Stakeholder interviews
- Participant reflections:
 - Pro forma for academics,
 - Interviews with transformer(s),
- Workshop(s),
- Logging experience (Video conferencing),
- End user interviews.

The University of Derby has published course content in the LabSpace and is now in a position to develop a template for use by other partner universities.

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