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Open Educational Resources in the Social Sciences: Evaluation Issues

Graham R Gibbs



Project aims

- Deposit 360 credits worth of material.
- **We did it.**
 - In good order. Conversion, preparation, mapping tool.
- **Examine:**
 - The taken-for-granted, tacit assumptions behind teachers' selection of topics, issues, content, examples, exercises, pedagogic approaches etc.
 - The issues relating to a contested and debated discipline (issues – how to find, sustainability)
- **Evaluation focussed on depositors' views**
 - To identify issues to address for others to do the same

What depositors assumed

Majority view

- The main users will be knowledge experts
- Quality control is provided by university procedures
- Accessibility - also as per university procedures
- Sustainability - just the short term, but no clear view
- Prerequisites - not a key issue, assumed resource is adaptable – material offered at diff levels.

Two issues

Evaluation raised lots of issues. Here focus on two

- What is the unit of resource for deposition and retrieval?
- How to find the resource you need?
- These two are related.

Unit of resource

- Options include:
 - The Course (20 credits, 30 credits)
 - The topic (maybe over several sessions)
 - The session (e.g. the lecture)
 - An example or exercise (perhaps as an RLO)
 - A class exercise
 - An example, perhaps as a video, audio, text.

C-SAP project

- Main focus on the course
- Some breakdown into sessions and some into RLOs etc.
- Supporting documentation is about the course.

Finding what you need

- How to find it.
 - Use course title?
 - Metadata (Jacs codes!)
 - Google type free text search
- How to use it - pedagogically
 - Assumes user is experienced teacher
 - Prerequisites and guidance needed if user is student
- How to extract just the bit you need
 - File formats, URLs etc.

Conclusions

- Variability of resource units and issues of finding resources still to be solved
- Jorum not well set up to address this.
- Needs more work to bring access to educational resources to same level as access to research literature.