Open Educational Resources at the University of Greenwich

What are Open Educational Resources?

"OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."

(Source: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education-program/open-educational-resources)

Key Questions

Why are they important?
- Participate in worldwide community for a greater good
- Highly visible
- Attract attention
- Raise profile (both individual and institution)

How are they used?
- Consumers
- Sharer
- Creator/Re-mixer

How should we plan for the future?
- Policy
- Support and guidance
- Reward and recognition

How can they support us, in working towards the aims of the University strategy?

OER types and sources

Learning objects
- Documents/Posters/Books/Images/Audio/Video

Digitised library collections
- Xpert – (www.nottingham.ac.uk/xpert) a JISC funded project aiming to progress the vision of a distributed architecture of e-learning resources for sharing and re-use.

Encyclopedia
- Wikipedia – (www.wikipedia.org) a web-based, free-content encyclopedia project supported by the Wikimedia Foundation and based on an openly editable model.

Archives/Repositories
- Jorum – (www.jorum.ac.uk) a JISC funded service, which provides a repository of learning and teaching materials.
- The Internet Archive – www.archive.org

Courses/Courseware
- Khan Academy – www.khanacademy.org

Further Reading/Case Studies

Embedding Open Educational Resources into student education institutionally - University of Leeds
(http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/detail/oer/OER_COM2_Leeds)

The Ripple Project (an OER Cascade Project)
Oxford University
(www.openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ripple)

Greenwich Connect Project webpages – Open Educational Resources*
(http://blogs.gre.ac.uk/greenwichconnect)

Creative Commons article - Moving OER into the Educational Mainstream: Challenges and Opportunities
(http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Free_to_Learn_Guide/Moving_OER_into_the_Educational_Mainstream:_Challenges_and_Opportunities)

*To be published shortly

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