Overview of Current OER Trends Potential Impact on LRE

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Introduction

• Open Educational Resources (OERs) are increasingly recognized as an important component of educational policies and, as such, are more and more discussed in reports and conferences.

• This presentation looks at some OER trends and issues that are potentially relevant to the development of the LRE.
Note on Sources

• No single resource that provides a comprehensive, *global* overview on the current status of OER

• Attempt to create an OER World Map has resulted in a very incomplete and not particularly useful database

• Most of the important studies/reports published thus far do not have a global focus but have
  • Country focus
  • Regional focus and/or
  • Specific thematic focus
Some Examples of Studies/Reports Published

• Commonwealth of Learning (OER): [https://www.col.org/programmes/open-educational-resources](https://www.col.org/programmes/open-educational-resources)


• OER Research Hub: [http://oerhub.net/](http://oerhub.net/)

• ROER4D: [http://roer4d.org/](http://roer4d.org/)

• National report on OER in the US: [https://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/oer.html](https://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/oer.html)

Additional Studies/Reports Published in the Next 2-3 Months

• The EC will publish policy recommendations on Open Education. These recommendations will target policy makers at governmental levels. In the context of this study, EC/JRC interviewed governmental representatives from all 28 EU members states.

• There will be a report coming out soon on the state of readiness for OER/OE in the Latin America region.
2nd World OER Congress Action Plan

• Importance of teacher training not only on how to enhance learning with OERs but also on how to find, modify, create, and share OERs

• Importance of communities of teachers for sharing OER-based teaching material

• Necessity for OER catalogs to have clear action plans with performance indicators to encourage goals such as accessibility, interoperability, and sustainability

• Importance of mobile devices as a way to democratizing the creation and access to OERs

• Necessity to come up with new business models to make OER-related activities sustainable
Other Trends in OERs

• Shift from OERs to Open Education (OE)
• Emergence of student-created OER as a pedagogic approach
• Growing importance of packaged content (i.e., MOOCs) in open education
OER Distribution Approaches

• **Push approach:** Ministries of Education, teaching institutions, teachers, publishers
  • Produce pedagogical content (that meets explicit pedagogical objectives)
  • Push out this content as Open Educational Resources
  • Legitimize content by associating it with themselves (a well-identified educational body)

• **pull approach:**
  • Assumes most if not all the content needed by learners and instructors is available online
  • Instructors are viewed as facilitators of learning who help learners develop their skills in finding, analyzing and applying content
  • Focus on pedagogical approaches that enable students to produce their own OERs
Conclusion

- Possible raise in interest in OER as a result of
  - OE Global Conference
  - 2nd World OER Congress
  - Expected EC policy recommendations on Open Education

- Difficult to decide whether this will result in the opening up of new EC action lines and funding possibilities

- Can students sustainably create OER that supports learning by other students is interesting and the exploration of a ‘pull approach’ by leading OER experts such as David Wiley may help this approach to gain traction

- In the meantime, the LRE will keep focusing on a Push approach
Project Ideas

- Increasing sharing behavior by gamification or otherwise
- Open educational practices - audiovisual documentation of innovative didactic practices at European level (with subtitles)
- Copyright and Data protection learning environments for the 21st century, including the challenges from the new regulation GDPR in the new systems
- New trends in content & content-based services (what’s next after educational content repositories)
- New standards for OERs
- Educational cloud-based Platforms
- Resource-based learning & best practices
- Sustainability strategies regarding digital educational content
- Use of social networks in education
- Actions that promote collaboration among teachers from various countries that use OERs