

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>
- OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/innovation/open-educational-resources-9789264247543-en.htm>
- OER Research Hub: <http://oerhub.net/>
- ROER4D: <http://roer4d.org/>
- National report on OER in the US:
<https://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/oer.html>
- Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 (2nd World OER Congress)
https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ljubljana_oer_action_plan_2017.pdf

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 GPDR 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