OER Initiatives:
Sharing Teaching & Learning Materials

Randall Library Workshop Series
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OER Defined

- “…digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research.”
- “…includes learning content, software tools to develop, use and distribute content, and implementation resources such as open licenses.”

www.sourceoecd.org/education/9789264031746

Who Benefits?

- Students enrolled at institution
- Instructors
- Self-learners (not enrolled)
- Institution
Impact at One Institution

- MIT OpenCourseWare (Carson, 2007)
  - 16% OCW visitors are educators
  - 32% students
  - 49% self-learners

- MIT use
  - 60% MIT faculty use OCW in teaching or advising
What’s Needed?

- Shift in perspective: mine ➔ ours
- Compatible technological standards
  - protocols
  - formats
- Open licensing terms
  - compatible and interoperable
  - human readable
  - machine readable
Licensing Terms

- Copyright: 5 protections to owner of ©
- Levels of openness/freedom (Bissell & Boyle, 2007)
  - -1: access to view material (read only)
  - 0: access, copy and distribute (read and share)
  - 1: access, copy, distribute and remix
- Licensing to intensify or lessen protections
- Creative Commons Licenses
Challenges

- Copyright
- Lack of awareness
- K-12
  - Work load
  - Lack of technological skill
  - Technological limitations
- Higher Ed.
  - Organizational culture
  - Cultural barriers
  - Unrecognized in T&P
Possible Solutions & the Future

- More attention, more awareness
- Development of standards
- Strong examples
  - Successes and failures
  - Best practices
- Creative Commons licenses, ccLearn
- Wikipedia & Open Source Software
  - Already set precedence: read, share, remix
  - Gladwell’s “tipping point”
Current Resources; Find Out More

- Creative Commons, iCommons, ccLearn (http://creativecommons.org/)
- MIT’s OCW (http://ocw.mit.edu)
- OpenCourseWare Consortium (http://www.ocwconsortium.org/)
- Rice’s Connexions (http://cnx.org/)
- Teachers’ Domain (K-12) (http://www.teachersdomain.org/exhibits/hew06-ex/index.html)
- Open Content Alliance (http://www.opencontentalliance.org)
- OER Commons (http://www.oercommons.org/)
- Wm. & Flora Hewlett Foundation
Thank you!