



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

Bissell, A. & Boyle, J. (2007). “Towards a global learning commons: ccLearn.” *Educational Technology* 47(6): 5-9.



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!

