

Open Badges

What are they?

- Badges are digital tokens that appear as icons or logos on a web page or other online venue
- They are awarded by institutions, organizations, groups, or individuals.
- Badges signify accomplishments such as completion of a project, mastery of a skill, or marks of experience.
- Each badge has associated metadata attached. This includes the badge title, description, criteria, image URL, issuer, issue date, recipient, evidence URL and expiration date.

Who's issuing badges?

As of March 2013 there are over 600 organizations that have either implemented their use already or are in the process of doing so. Organisations include NASA, the Smithsonian, Intel, the Girl Scouts, NYC Department of Education, University of Illinois, EDUCAUSE, The Khan Academic, Google News, MIT and Harvard (via edX) to name but a few. The Open University are in the process of offering badges as part of their OLDS MOOC (<http://www.olds.ac.uk/>) program.

How are they being issued?

- Through an institution/organisation website
- Through a third party e.g. P2PU (<https://p2pu.org>), Credly (<https://credly.com>)

How are users/learners collecting and displaying their badges?

- Through Mozilla Backpack (<http://beta.openbadges.org/backpack/login>)
- Online profiles e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook, Tumblr, Websites etc

Potential Benefits (initial thoughts)

- Provides an opportunity to capture informal learning
- Acts as a motivator
- Could support innovation and flexibility
- For building online identity/reputation
- To develop community /kinship

Potential Issues (initial thoughts)

- Quality control of the badges
- Difficult to prove that the badge was awarded to the person who completed the specified assessment
- Difficult to establish the value of a badge awarded by an unknown or unaccredited source

What would wlv.ac.uk need to do to take advantage of badges (initial thoughts)

- Install Open Badge Infrastructure (OBI) onto a relevant server
- Identify relevant skills, competencies for the award
- Create the badge icon
- "Bake" the badge

- **Recruit users/learners**
- **Assess competency and issue badge.**

For links to relevant sources I have used Edcanvas <http://edcvs.co/13XdAl2>.