

Roundtable Session Notes

Session Title: Practical Applications of Open Educational Resources (OER)

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Participants:

Jean Weber, VA Department of Education

AnnaMaria Schimpf, Winchester Public Schools, MA

Carmella Doty, Prince George County Schools, MD

Nancy Quinlan, Needham Public Schools, Needham, MA

David Morrow, Mobile Public Schools, Mobile, AL

Roland Antoine, Texans Can! statewide charter school in TX (DFW, Austin, san Antonio)

- VA just developed online, stand-alone course in economics and personal finance (per order of VA legislature which has ordered this as a graduation requirement)
- Tech is great but if you don't change
- getting tech is easy but human structure is harder--training people to use

- How many of you have thought about OER before? (Everyone)
- How have you used it? what has your experience been?
- (Refers to handout) Top section of listed resources have been funded by foundations. Second section (e.g., MERLOT) are repositories and some are refertories that link to something
- What do you need to think about when using OER?
- Jean (VA)--First exposure to OER was Marco Polo (created by teachers putting in content and ed orgs like National Geographic)—they always had a lesson plan so teacher knew how to use in classroom
- Marco Polo moved into Thinkfinity and Verizon Foundation took it over. In VA, Jean's job was to help teachers use these. Content was vetted by each organization, lots of processing and back and forth. Standards for all 50 states even before there was *Common Core*. People don't think of it as OER but it was OER
- Kathy Schrock's stuff is at Discovery Education but she has also developed a lot of OER stuff. She developed reputation as good vettor of resources
- Carmella (MD)—we had Marco Polo, we did the same thing
- Jean—at that time, using Internet in classroom was tough—some districts were banning Internet
- MD-State ed department has series of courses for teachers to train people to be

facilitators and mentors and we use lots of different resources. They use a lot of Khan Academy and videos can be accessed via cell phones. Parents put it on their phones so kids can access videos on their way home in back seat of car. Used a lot of NROC (AP courses) and train teachers to use Moodle—we are 19th largest district in US with 26 high schools.

- We went to HS classes to see what AP courses they had difficulty giving—we hired teachers to teach online. We found out those teachers used all content in both face-to-face and online courses.
- We do a bunch of recovery stuff. 200 students last year for all courses. We expect to double this year.
- It comes down you have to change the pedagogy
- Terri—online learning can be just in time and take it back to classes
- MD—we go with different vendors. Teachers use online courses but it changes how they teach in classroom and they put kids in online environment
- Terri—Hippocampus is a public site with thousands of learning objects—repository of chunks as well as full courses. Launched through funding with Hewlett and Gates. We have 130 members who pay annual fees.
- For example, Prince Georges pays \$3000 which more than pays for itself
- Terri—trying to bring down course fees but Hippocampus is free. Individual use only but if you want to us for institutions with support, assessments, etc you want institutional price
- MD—what is good about Hippocampus is that lots of courses/content is aligned to certain textbooks which excites teachers. Teachers like that a lot.
- Hippocampus—if you don't have LMS it is okay
- MD—using Hippocampus for regular and AP courses. Lots of links inside and grab link and put into LMS. They just redid algebra course which kids love (there's a cool guy)
- Student resources or moving to blended courses, you may want to move to institutional membership
- One question is to think about what you want to do with content—over time or short time period? You want projects to live over time so you don't have to rebuild course. Lots of folks think OER is free but it just means that you can adapt it
- VA-if you don't have **(Can't hear)**...hard to keep it up to date, you can't do it especially in developed ibooks (\$14.99) they are the course made into an ibook which makes it interactive, has assessments built in—the most OER piece is that you can get a PDF version of the course. Dull and boring but if you need background info, you can get it
- Are there good checklists for OER?
 - What will you use it for?
 - How will you deliver? Intranet that runs faster or internet (e.g., their new algebra course is 3 GB, so you want it on NROC server, not yours)

- Carmella—HS teachers are using EdModo where you can get them to give you a free domain (EdModo sells app on side). Looks like Facebook so kids get it, we are putting all content on it and parents get it and get messages. They are using it down all kindergarten level
- Open apps and OER interface—Remind 101 and Edmodo allow you to send text messages and schedule reminders to kids. Kids are texting back looking for info. This is moving to where kids are
- This needs to be a collective trend with kids leading the way and finding resources
 - Achieve just came out with great rubrics evaluating OER (see below)
- What is the biggest deal about using OER?
 - We don't know if it will be there tomorrow. Don't know if it is sustainable.
 - We don't know that we can package it.
- (Discussion about NROC hiring Salman Khan before he got famous)
- OER can be a game changer—if you have a server where you can post resources
- If we want kids to do education, like Chris was talking about, they need to find their passion and be an apprentice and this helps them do that (having kids find and upload resources)
- Any questions about OER?
 - MD—we ran an online institute and we found that teachers were on fire with this but administrators could care less even though we're saving money with free stuff. Are other people having same problem?
 - TX-same issues—we buy lots of coursework from Pearson and I moved us away from MS to Google Apps so we have a course container so I create my own resources and hand them to teachers. There is a weird thought that if you don't pay a lot of money for it, it isn't good (Others agree)
 - That is a big issue but administrators are looking at it from POV of CYA. They have to make sure that some parent cannot sue because you are using materials that are not approved
 - This is alignment with standards. Wikipedia is aligned with standards (may not be true but it is aligned!)
 - Use money you save to train teachers and develop curriculum
 - OER stuff you don't start from scratch. It is a toolbox and teachers can use this best
 - Teachers are really reliant on all the services from education tech companies who do a great job.

Sites:

- ThinkFinity: <http://www.thinkfinity.org/>
- Hippocampus: <http://www.hippocampus.org/>
- Edmodo: <http://www.edmodo.com/>
- Khan Academy: <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
- Free rubrics for evaluating OER: <http://www.achieve.org/OER-rubrics>

Here are some resources from the handout shared in the session if you wish to explore:

OER Projects: Object Repositories, Courses, and Courseware

Carnegie Mellon University (OLI)	http://www.cmu.edu/oli/
Creative Commons	http://creativecommons.org
Curriki	http://www.curriki.org/
HippoCampus (NROC)	http://new.HippoCampus.org
NROC Math	http://nrocmath.org
OER Commons	http://www.oercommons.org/
Open High School of Utah	http://www.openhighschool.org/
Open CourseWare Consortium	http://www.ocwconsortium.org
Rice Connexions	http://cnx.org
Saylor Foundation	http://saylor.org

Open Textbook Projects:

California Learning Resource Network	http://www.clrn.org/home/
College Open Textbooks	http:// collegeopentextbooks.org/
CK12	http://www.ck12.org/flexr/

More Open Portals, Repositories, Referatories and Specialized Collections:

Digital Learning Commons	http://www.learningcommons.org/
Georgia Virtual Learning	http://www.georgiavirtualllearning.org/Resources.aspx
ide@s (U of Wisconsin System)	http://www.ideas.wisconsin.edu
itunes U	http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/
K12 Open Ed Wiki	http://www.k12opened.com/about
Khan Academy	http://www.khanacademy.org/
Merlot	http://www.merlot.org
National Science Digital Library	http://nsdl.org/
NOAA	http://www.education.noaa.gov/
PBS Teachers	http://www.pbs.org/teachers/
PhET	http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/category/new
Teacher's Domain	http://www.teachersdomain.org/
Teacher Tube	http://www.teachertube.com/
Wisc-Online	http://www.wisc-online.com

For more on OER:

Connexions online course about working with OER:
<http://cnx.org/content/m15211/latest/>

UNESCO OER Toolkit:

http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=UNESCO_OER_Toolkit

WikiEducator OER Handbook for Educators:

http://wikieducator.org/OER_Handbook/educator_version_one/Introduction/Why_OER%3F

WikiEducator Exemplary Collections:

http://wikieducator.org/Exemplary_Collection_of_Open_eLearning_Content_Repositories

For more on copyright considerations:

<http://creativecommons.org/>

Your Favorite Resources?