OER16: Call for Proposals

The 7th Open Educational Resources Conference, **OER16: Open Culture**, will be held on the 19th-20th April 2015 at the University of Edinburgh.

The vision for the conference is to focus on the value proposition of embedding open culture in the context of institutional strategies for learning, teaching and research. The conference will be chaired by Melissa Highton, Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Services at the University of Edinburgh, and Lorna Campbell, OER Liaison at the University of Edinburgh and EDINA Digital Education Manager.

OER16 will focus on:
- The strategic advantage of open and creating a culture of openness.
- Converging and competing cultures of open knowledge, open source, open content, open practice, open data and open access.
- Hacking, making and sharing.
- The reputational challenges of openwashing.
- Openness and public engagement.
- Innovative approaches to opening up cultural heritage collections for education.

Call for proposals

OER16 is inviting proposal for presentations, lightning talks, posters, workshops and panels. Your proposal needs to show clearly how your session will address one or more of the conference themes and should include recent research, case studies, practice or learner perspectives from any educational context including schools, colleges, universities, industry, training and skills.

Keep in mind that the proposal you submit for review now will, if accepted, be used for inclusion in the conference programme and is the primary way that participants will choose which sessions to attend.

Session and submission formats

When submitting your proposal please choose from one of the following four session types:

- **Presentations:** These will normally take the form of a 10 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions. Time: 15 minutes.
  Abstract word limit: 500
- **Lightning talks:** The title says it all. Time: 5 minutes.
  Abstract word limit: 250
- **Workshops and panels:** These may follow a variety of formats. We are especially interested in innovative, interactive and creative session formats. Due to the high demand for sessions, we have limited the number of workshop proposals we will accept to 6. Time: 60 minutes. Abstract word limit: 500

- **Posters:** Posters will be displayed in the conference area and should address one or more of the conference themes.

All proposals should address one or more of the four main conference themes:
1. Strategic and reputational advantages of openness (including, but not restricted to, outreach, public engagement and return on investment).
2. Converging or diverging cultures of openness (including open data, open science, open GLAM, open knowledge, open source, open content, open access).
3. Hacking, making and sharing.
4. Innovative approaches to opening up cultural heritage collections for education.

You are encouraged to consider ways to interact and involve conference delegates in your session, and where appropriate, you should leave time for discussion.

Each session will be chaired by a member of the Conference Committee who will help you run the session. If your proposal has multiple authors, you will need to nominate one session lead to act as the main point of contact in the run up to the conference and whose name will appear in the programme as the primary contact for participants.

Most rooms at the conference venue are flat-floored with cabaret or classroom style seating and seat between 50-90 participants. Please bear this in mind when planning your session.

Key dates for your diary
Extended deadline for proposals: **Midday GMT Monday 30 November 2015**
Register to attend: from January 2016

The submission, reviewing, and acceptance process
All submitted proposals will be double-blind peer-reviewed by members of the Conference Committee. After review and one cycle of revision and re-submission, the Conference Committee will select proposals for inclusion in OER16.

Submission criteria
- The maximum word count for proposal abstracts is 500 words for presentations and 250 words for lightning talks. Proposals that exceed the word limit will not be accepted or reviewed.
- Presentation proposals should include references[1], which will be counted towards the 500 word limit. Ideally presentation proposals should include two or three references, and at most six. References should follow the Harvard System (parenthetical referencing – see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parenthetical_referencing).
- Required fields for submission are: conference theme; session type; author name; email; affiliation; title; abstract.
- All proposals will be double blind peer reviewed so abstracts should not include the names or affiliations of the authors.
- Contributions should not have appeared elsewhere, in whole or in part.
- To ensure a suitably diverse programme, no individual can be named as the main author or presenter of more than one proposal, though they may be named as co-authors.

Note for proposals with a commercial focus
We do not accept proposals with a primary focus on demonstrating services or products offered by a commercial provider and which do not explicitly address the conference theme(s) in a learning context. If you are unsure of how to best submit your proposal, we encourage you to attend our author webinars or contact us directly.

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[1] 'references' may include website, blog posts, white papers or any other material related to your submission

Review criteria

Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference title "Open Culture" and to one or more of the conference themes.
- Usefulness to conference participants from across all sectors of education and from outside the UK.
- Contribution to the provision of reliable evidence for scholarship and research into open education and the integration of learning technologies into education.
- Appropriate reflection and evaluation.
- Creativity and innovation
- Clarity, coherence and conformance to guidelines.

Here education is considered broadly and includes formal and informal learning settings in schools, colleges, universities, the workplace, homes and communities, at any stage in learners' lives.

Acceptance and conference registration

When a proposal has been accepted, at least one presenter must register to attend the conference. Presenters will be notified of the registration deadline at the time their proposal is provisionally accepted. Only when the presenter's registration booking has been made will the proposal be fully accepted for the conference. Detailed guidance for presenters will be provided in advance of the conference.

Submission process

Proposals will be submitted via the Open Conference System (OCS). The OCS system will be available for authors to make their submissions until the submission deadline of **30th November 2015**. To submit your proposal visit:

http://ocs.sfu.ca/alt/index.php/conferences/OER16

Document History

Date	By	Summary
12/11/2015	AD	Extended submission deadline
11/11/2015	MH	Clarification on term 'references'
02/10/2015	MH	OCS Link
03/09/2015	MD/MH	Publication