

Title: **Opportunities for pedagogic innovation: understanding the value of OER and Jorum**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- understand the value of sharing and repurposing resources – both for themselves, their institutions and their learners
- locate JorumOpen as a source of freely available Open Educational Resources (OER), and understand how they can both contribute and use these resources

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are:

Do 21st century academics regularly share and repurpose learning and teaching resources, operating more efficiently, gaining recognition, meeting learners' expectations and diversifying their pedagogy?

The HE Academy / JISC funded UKOER Programme, aiming to stimulate “lasting changes in pedagogic practice” and resulting in “support for new models of learning” (Sadler, 2010), is contributing to the release of open educational resources (OER), created and shared by UK academics for reuse by anyone. JorumOpen hosts and points to these OER, providing a trusted source of materials for use in any post-16 educational environment. Resources in JorumOpen are exposed to search engines like Google, making them more visible and discoverable by academics and learners alike.

So how can OER contribute to pedagogic innovation? Academics argue that using OER, shared openly by other academics, can complement their own teaching repertoire, not only providing ideas and inspiration, but enabling them to produce resources they may not have the skills to create themselves. Reusing OER also presents an opportunity to learn about learning design, and to spend more time on the pedagogy, rather than content creation. In turn, a greater variety of learning experiences are afforded to students, increasing engagement and facilitating a learner-centred approach.

OER can enhance both individual academic and institutional reputations: sharing resources with Jorum “gains exposure for us and the university, and opens doors for possible collaboration with other universities” (Dransfield, 2009). There is also evidence that new

academics can particularly benefit from engaging with OER, by building a reputation in their early careers. (Littlejohn et al, 2010).

Can 21st century academics afford to reinvent wheels, when high quality OER are available via services like JorumOpen? Anderson (2009) proposes that academics may be “negligent” if they don’t first look for existing OER, indicating a shift in teaching from “not invented here” syndrome, to “Building On The Work Of Others” (Laurillard, 2010), akin to collaboration in research.

As a JISC-funded national repository service, Jorum supports academics in developing attributes that 21st century technology enhanced learning requires. This session will reflect on the role of OER and Jorum’s experiences in providing this support, exploring questions with participants:

- Why share and repurpose OER – pedagogically, and practically?
- What are the implications of ownership/reuse for pedagogic practice?
- What would make sharing and reuse easier?

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- Part one of presentation – **15 minutes**
- Questions – **5-10 minutes**
- Small group discussions (on pedagogic and practical issues around sharing and repurposing resources) and feedback – **10-15 minutes**
- Part two of presentation – **5 minutes**
- Final questions and conclusion – **5 minutes**

References

Anderson, T. (2009) ‘ALT-C 2009 Keynote speech’, *blip.tv*. Available at: <http://alt-c.blip.tv/file/2613543/> (Accessed: 29 October 2010)

Dransfield, M. (2009) ‘English as a Lingua Franca’, *Jorum Community Bay*. Available at: <http://community.jorum.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=44> (Accessed: 29 October 2010)

Laurillard, D. (2010) ‘Intelligent support for teachers who are designing new forms of learning’, *OER in the disciplines: a joint Subject Strand conference*. Royal Institute of British Architects, London 26 October 2010.

Littlejohn, A., McGill, L., Beetham, H. and Falconer, I. (2010) ‘UKOER II synthesis and evaluation’, *OER Phase 2 Start-up Meeting*. Mermaid Centre, London 22 September 2010. Available at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/elearning/oer2/oer2startup.aspx>

Sadler, D. (2010) *Welcome to the “OER in the Disciplines” Conference*. Available at: http://www.medev.ac.uk/dinky/oeritd10_googledoc_programme/ (Accessed: 29 October 2010)