



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Who says you cant have quality content in low-resource settings? The uses of OER

Asha Kanwar, Vice President
Commonwealth of Learning

August 24, 2011

new acce
freedomeduc
impactopenanddistance
focus diversity peop
paradigmshiftgenderequali
smallstatespeople stren
institutionsstrengthcapacity
elearningsskillsdevelopment k
partnershipseffectiven
accessibilityqualityassuranceaccou
technologycommunities effect
ra... allstatesm
impact values policyopportur
innovationcommonwealthdevelop
teachertrainingaccessreg'on mmo
universitiesgovernments ast media t
elearningfocusc onvecon I
synergies ble... tions
innovationc
comr
teachi
streng,
synergi
wealtht
trainin
know
impac
institu
diversit
governmen
developmentg
openanddistancecele
knowledgetrustfreede



COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING



Learning for Development

The Commonwealth



THE COMMONWEALTH COMPRISES 54 DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Map Published by the Communications and Public Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2010.

The Commonwealth of Learning

What is it for?

- To help Commonwealth governments and institutions use various technologies to improve and expand learning for development.



Open Educational Resources (OER)

- *OER are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits their free use and in some instances, re-purposing by others*

Atkins, Brown & Hammond, 2007



What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

Materials that are

- Free and freely available
- Suitable for all levels of education
- Reusable
- Digital or any medium

Early leaders

- MIT OCW
- Rice University's Connexions
- UKOU OpenLearn
- OpenER Netherlands OU





THE VIETNAM FOUNDATION



China Open Resources for Education



Advantages of using OERs

- Increase availability
- Improve quality
- Cut costs
- Foster collaboration
- Build capacity
- Preservation & dissemination of indigenous knowledge and global exchange



Increasing availability: Malawi

- Bunda College of Agriculture
 - 102 page Communications Skills textbook
 - 75% OER
 - Adapted by adding contextually relevant materials, activities, assignments



Improving Quality



- 509 institutions in India
 - KSS Women’s Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh
 - Maya Devi Educational Foundation, Uttarakhand
 - Bhilai Institute of Technology, Chattisgarh



Cutting costs: TESSA

- 20 teacher education programmes in 12 countries
- Materials available in 4 languages
- In 2010, 320,000 teachers benefited



Fostering Collaboration



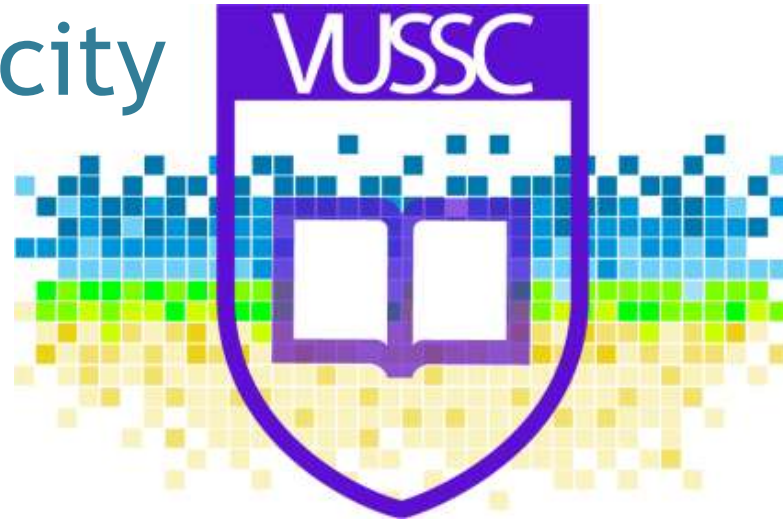
Ministries
of Education

Schools

Teachers

Consultants

Build capacity



The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth



The Commonwealth *of Learning*



Global exchange

University of Ghana



The Balme Library of the University of Ghana

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology



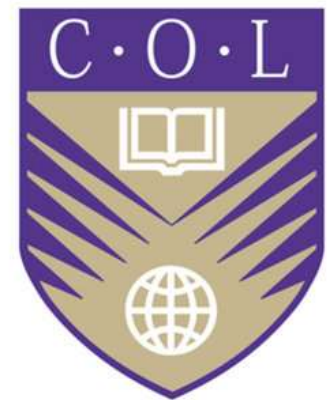
Challenges

- Awareness at grassroots level
- From production to use
- Policy advocacy

Policy Forum December 2010

UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning

- Taking the Open Educational Resources (OER) beyond the OER Community: Policy and Capacity



Conclusions

Governments and HEIs should:

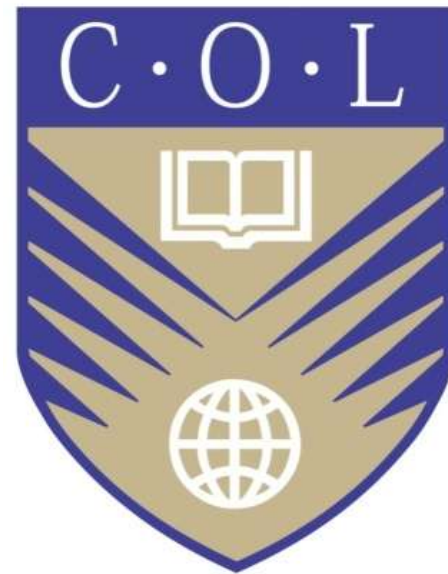
- have policies to support the development and re-use of OER;
- develop capacity in OER; and
- support the improvement of national ICT infrastructures.



International Guidelines for Open Educational Resources



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



THANK YOU
WWW.COL.ORG

