

Making It Matter

Supporting Education In The Developing
World Through Open And Linked Data



This is the view.....

- From way above...
- ***Developing countries produce sizeable quantities of OER***
- ***Large institutions*** rather than small ones involved
- ***Need for value addition***
 - Educational, employability ontologies



Commonwealth of Learning

The screenshot shows the Commonwealth of Learning website homepage. At the top, the logo reads "COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING" with the tagline "LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT". A navigation menu includes links for HOME, NEWS, PROGRAMMES & SERVICES, RESOURCES, ABOUT COL, and COL BLOG. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main banner features a photograph of a woman carrying a child on her back, walking through a field. Below the banner, the page is organized into several sections:

- Left Column:**
 - A dropdown menu for "Information for ..." with a "CHOOSE ONE" option.
 - A "KNOWLEDGE FINDER" section with a "COL's custom web search" button.
 - A "New publications on Open Educational Resources" section with a "MORE" link.
 - A "Commonwealth Sister Organisations" section featuring logos for "The Commonwealth", "Commonwealth Connects", and "Commonwealth Foundation".
 - Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.
- Center Column:**
 - Achieving the MDGs:** A section discussing the need for a massive expansion of human learning to meet the Millennium Development Goals.
 - News Services:** A section describing RSS feeds that aggregate and filter content from reliable web sources.
 - Discussion:** A section for "Emerging issues - MOOCs".
- Right Column:**
 - Connections:** A section for the "MARCH NEWSLETTER COL" (March 2014), listing topics like "Another Successful PCF", "Community Radio Video Challenge Awards", and "Celebrating Excellence in Open and Distance Education".
 - Publications:** A section offering a wide range of studies, reports, and research documents for download.
 - News:** A section for the "Seventh Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF7)", held in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2013.
- Bottom Right:** A "VUSSC" section (Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth) and a "CEMCA" section (Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia).

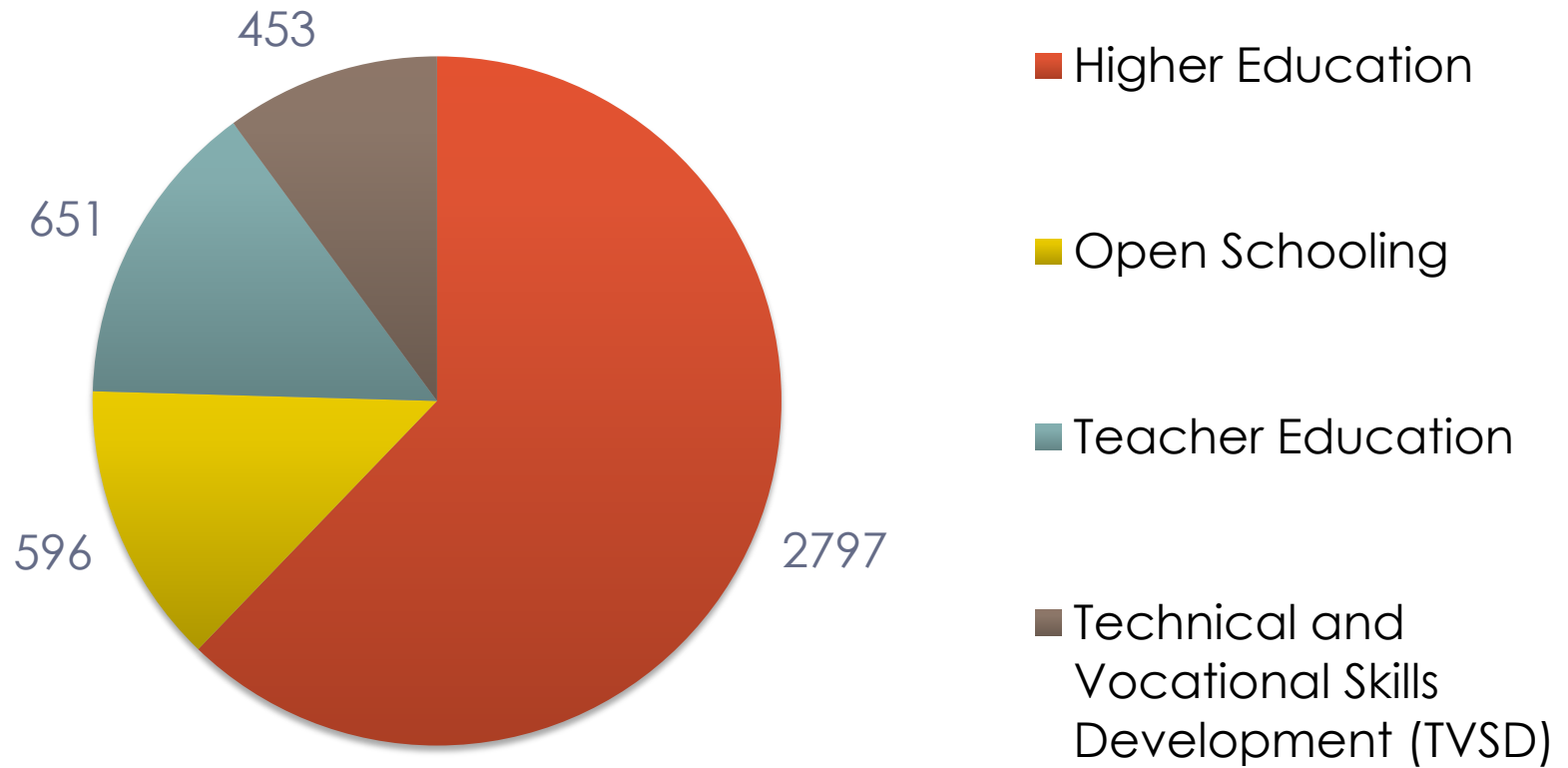
At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Legal Notice", "Contact Us", "Using PDFs", and "Intranet Login".



DOER

COL's Directory of Open Educational Resources | doer.col.org

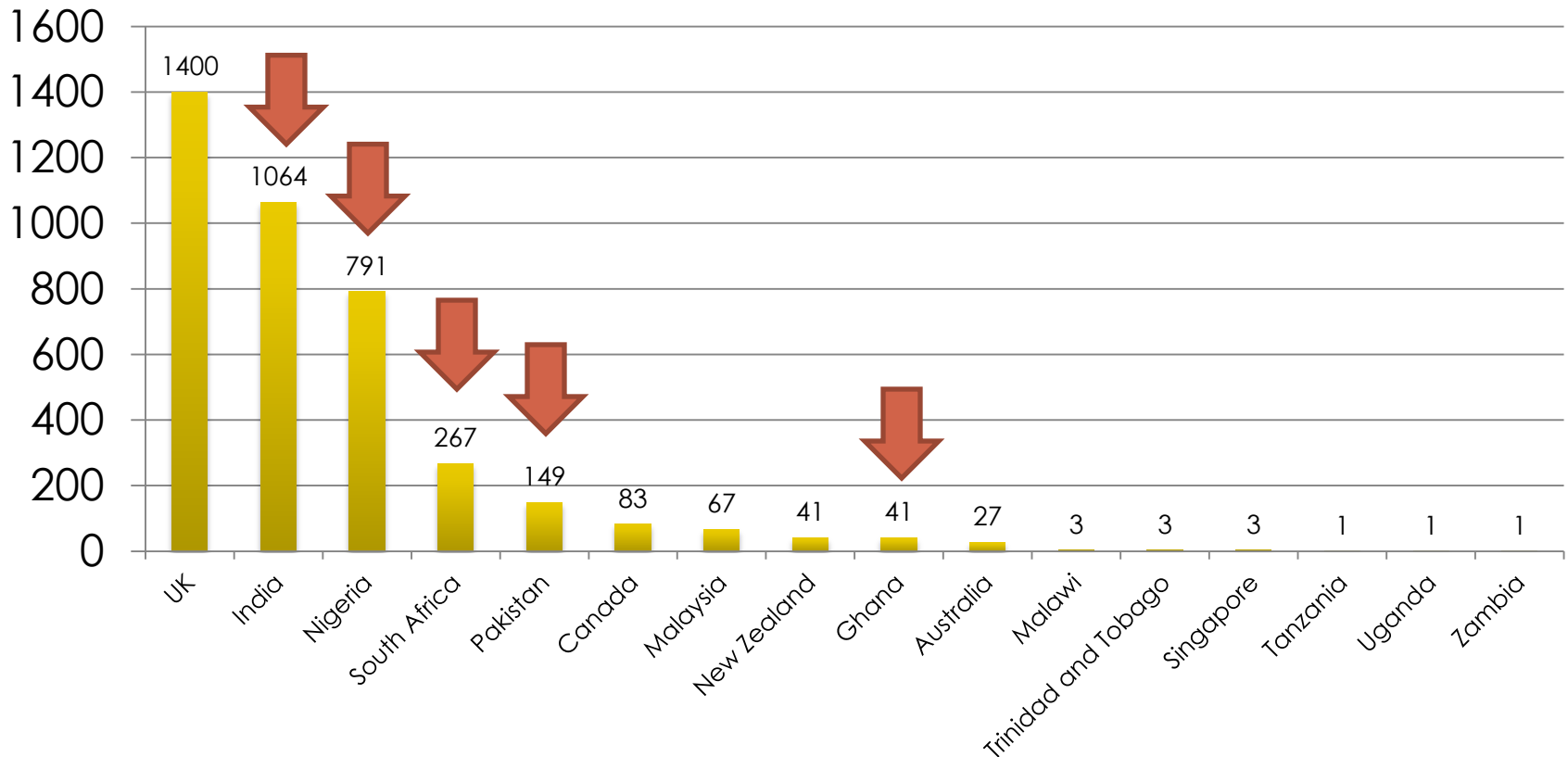
OERs by Community



DOER

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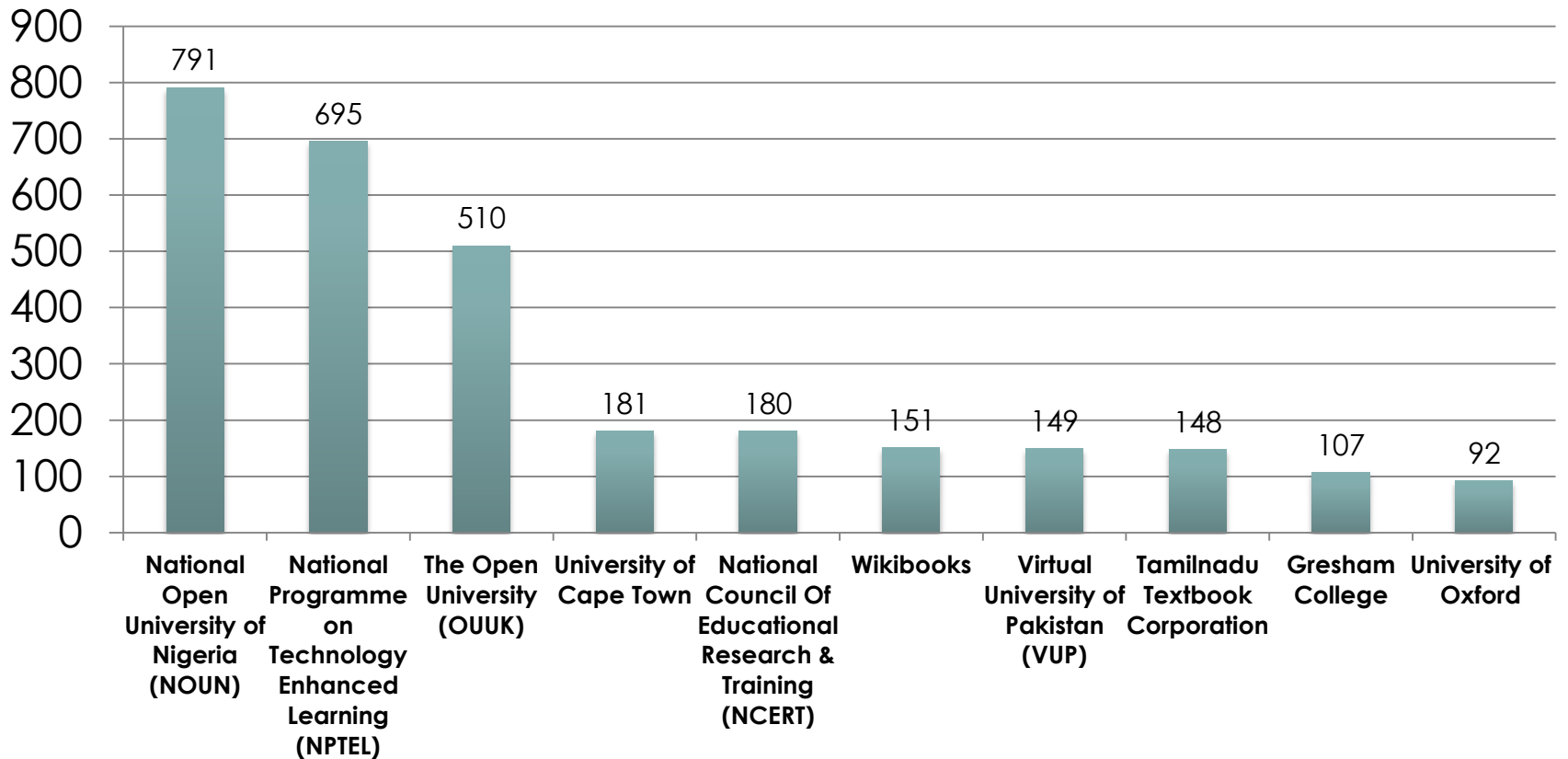
Top Producing Countries



DOER

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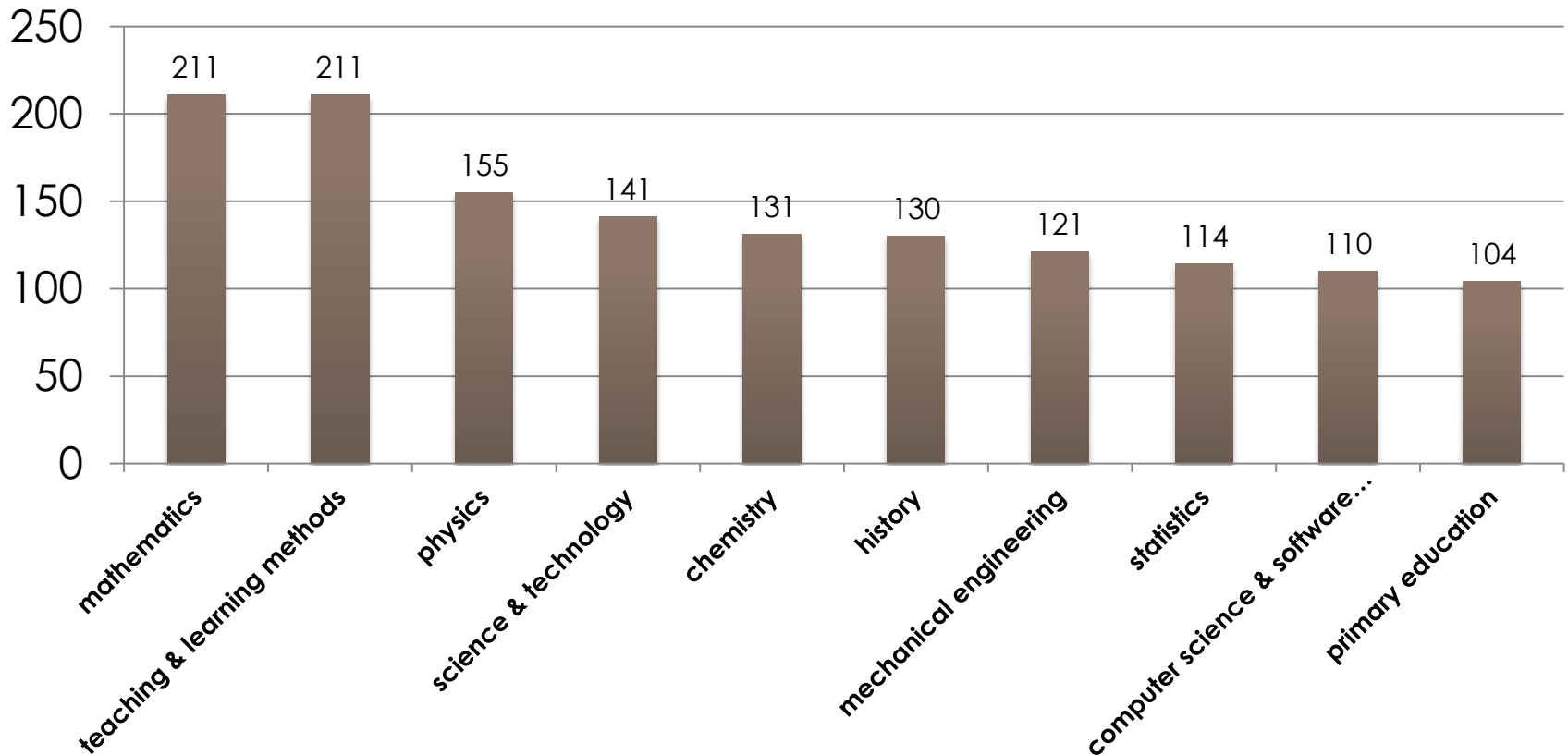
Top Publishers



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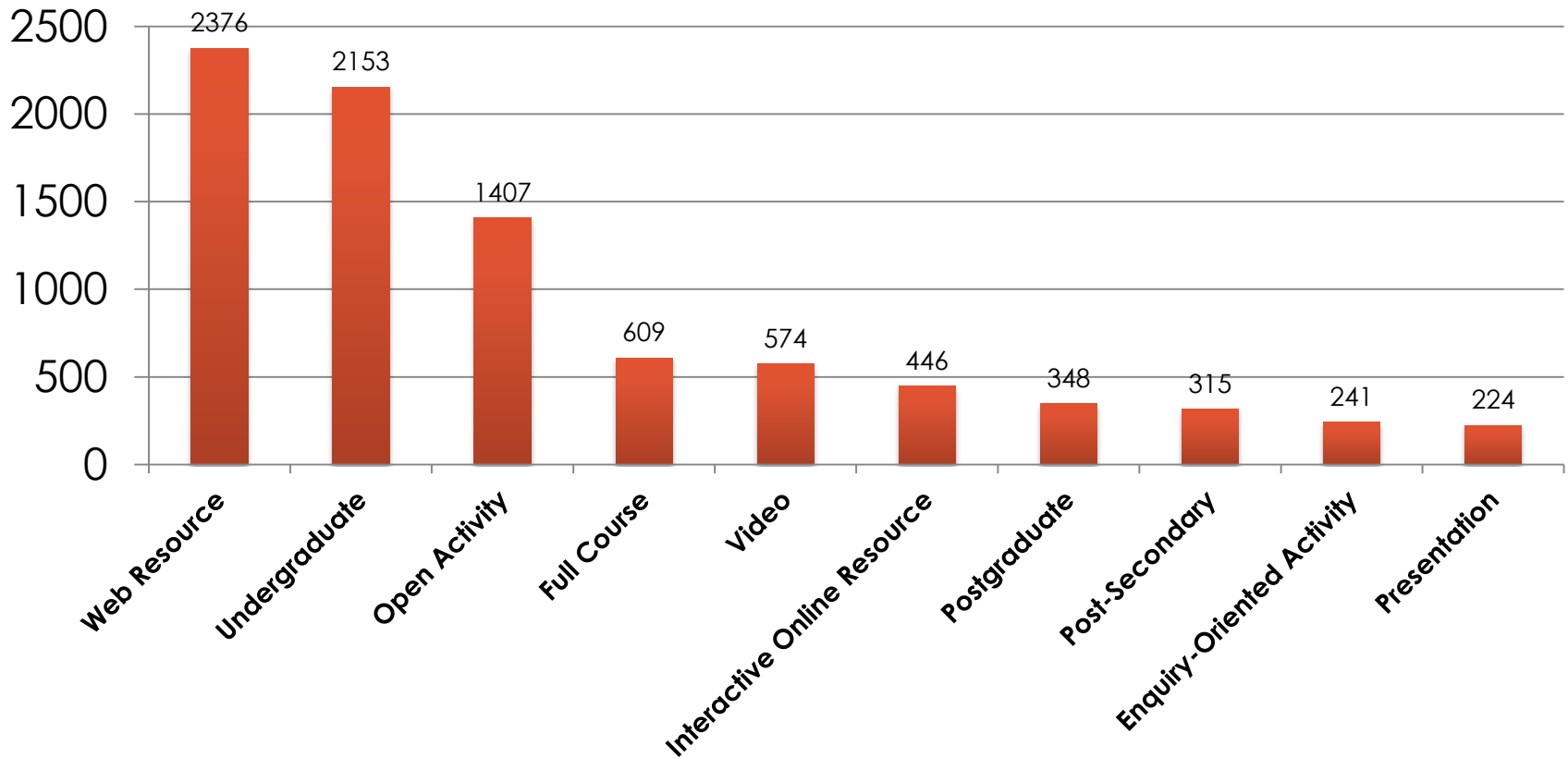
Top Subject Tags



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Top Edutags



Good producers, good consumers

- Earlier view:
 - developing world as OER consumers
- Now:
 - Developing world as OER producers
- More appropriate: good producer = good consumer



Reuse and Adaptation of OER

A must for making impact



- Discoverability of OER
- Here is where LinkedUp is making a huge contribution already



- Quality of OER is best established through socialising OER



Reuse and adaptation

- Proceeds well when users know the values
 - Educational: level of attainment, maturity/capability, prior learning etc
 - Employment/ Skills Development: this set of values is increasingly important



Socialising OER

- Already taking place in online spaces
 - YouTube
 - Facebook
 - Etc
- Not easily and critically assessed for value



Need for new ontologies

- Educational
 - LRMI
 - LinkedUp
- Employability
 - Ontology approach e.g Dragon Gasevitch Athabasca U



Offlining of OER

- About 80% of learners do not have consistent access to Internet for learning
- Offlining is helpful
- COL's Aptus (www.col.org/aptus)



What would we look forward to?

- Improving discoverability of OER, esp from developing world
- New ontologies for skills development and employability
- Further improving data on educational value

