



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



**IDLELO:**

a common

grazing ground

Learning

is our

Common Wealth

FOSSEFA:

a global

commons of software

“our aim is to combine connectivity with learning resources so as to create a global intellectual commons accessible to the whole of humankind”

**The  
tragedy  
of the  
commons**

**The  
tragedy  
of the  
commons**

A large, thick black 'X' is drawn across the entire text, crossing itself in the center. The 'X' is formed by two diagonal lines that extend from the corners of the text area towards the center.

# Open Source for Open Learning



**John Daniel**



**Paul West**

**Commonwealth of Learning**



# The Wide Umbrella of ODL

Virtual education

**Tech-MODE**

Online learning

e-learning

mLearning

Distributed education

**BLENDED  
LEARNING**

Flexible learning

# Open learning

=

No barriers

# Distance learning

=

Scale, access, flexibility

# Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty and hunger
- Primary education
- Gender equality
- Health
- Environment
- Partnership

# Millennium Development Goals

Require

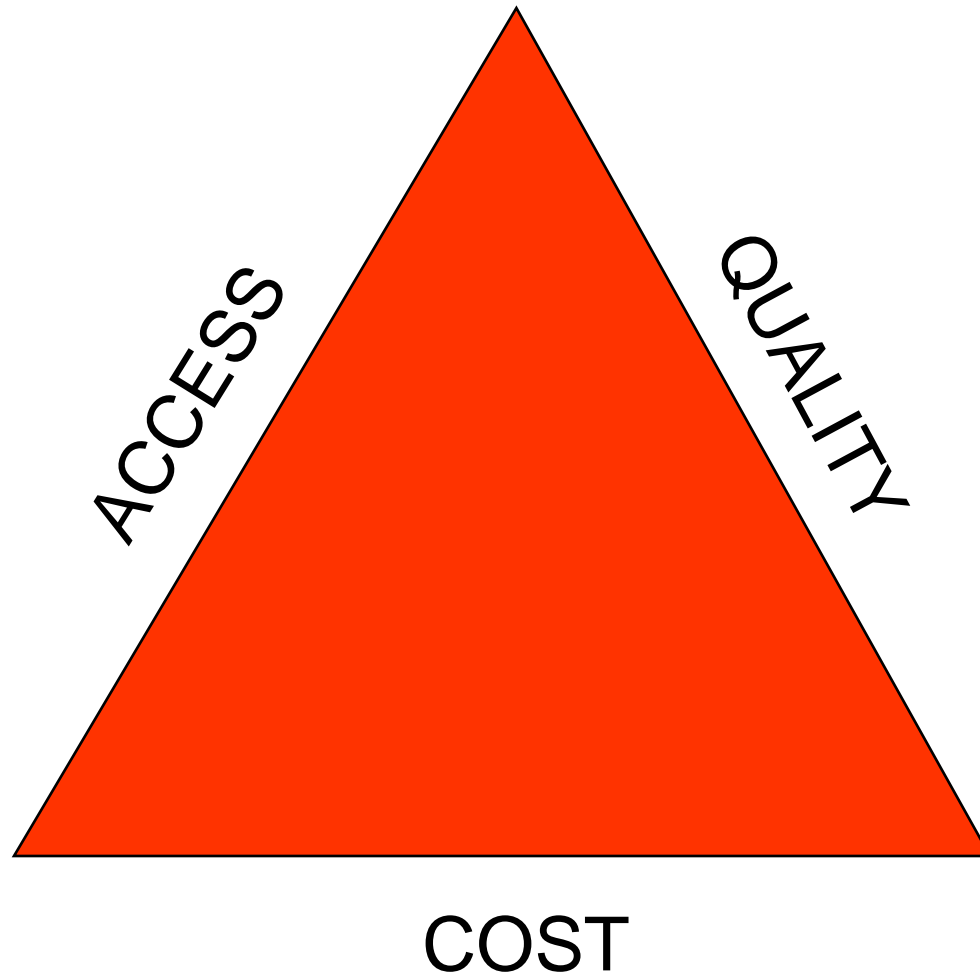
a massive increase in  
human learning

# Open Source for Open Learning

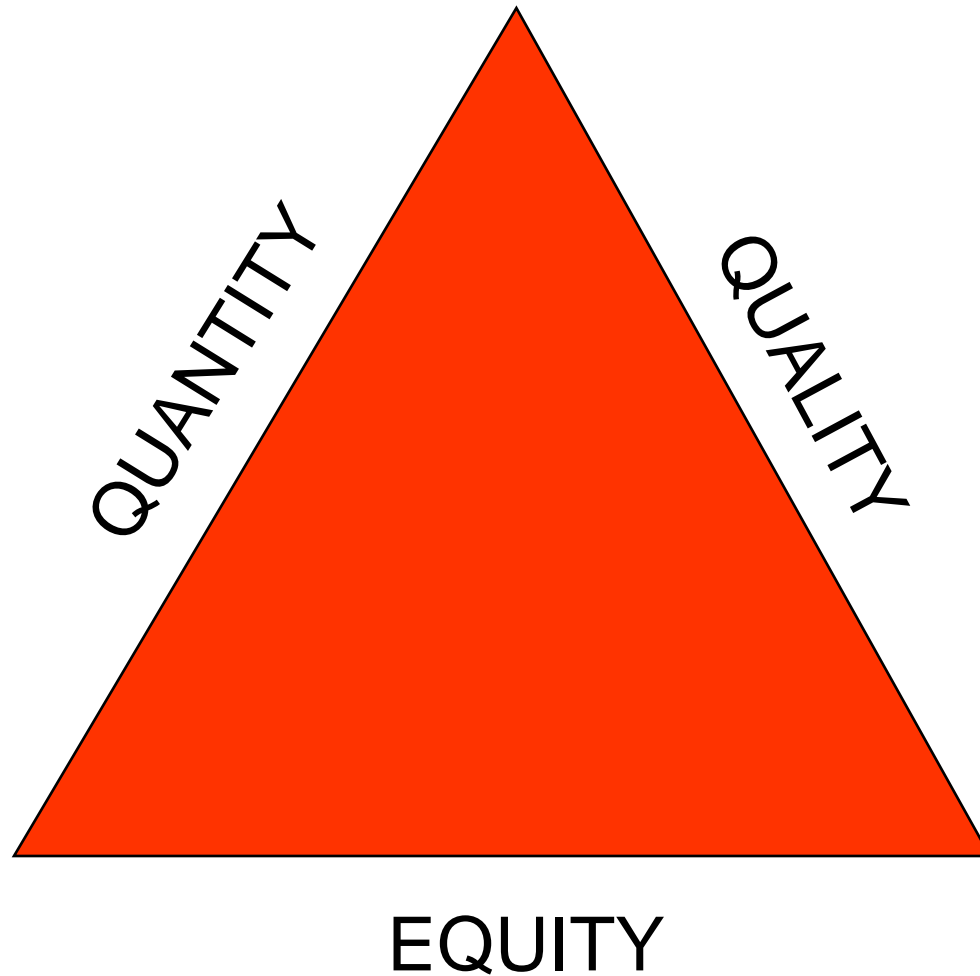
1. Cut costs

2. Empower people

# The Iron Triangle

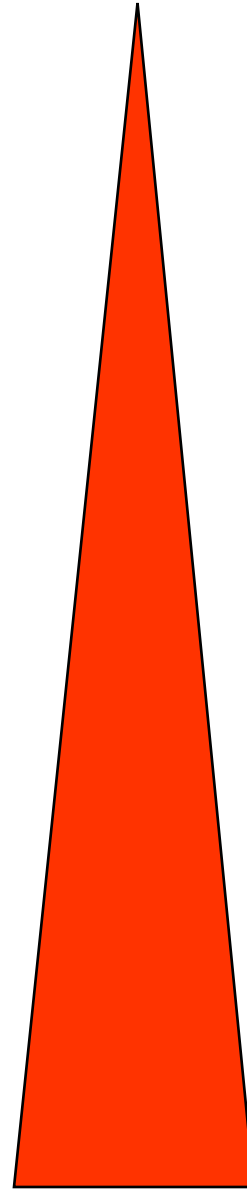


# The Iron Triangle



**ACCESS**

**QUALITY**

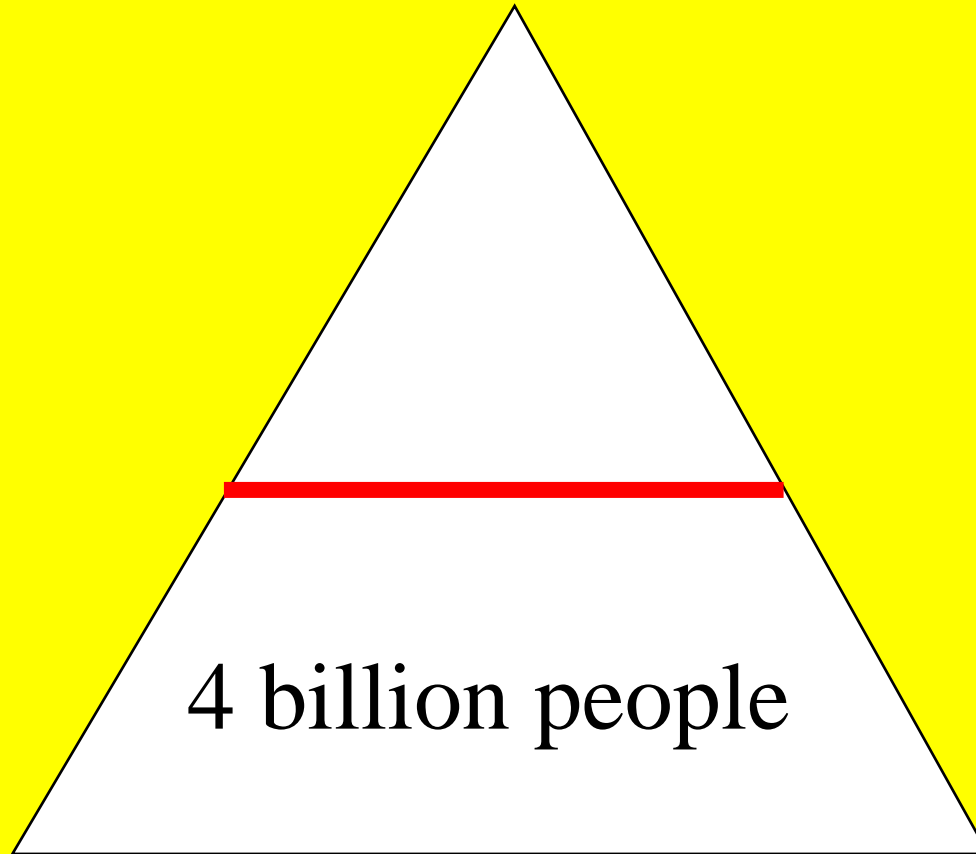


**COST**



# *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*

C. K. Prahalad



# C.K.Prahalad

*The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*

‘radical innovations in technology and  
business models’

‘an ideal of highly distributed small scale  
operations married to world-scale  
capabilities’

# Assets of large ODL systems

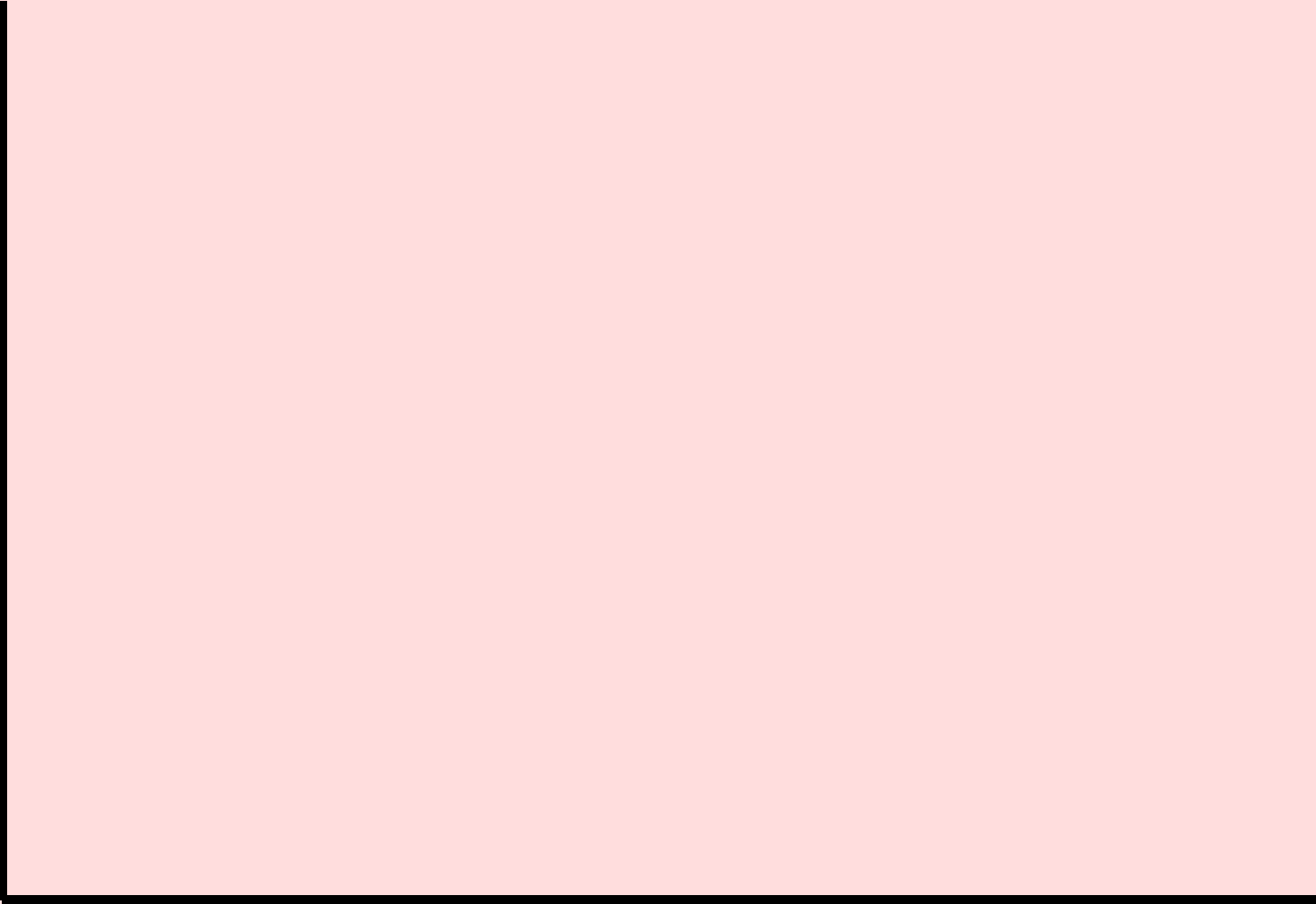
- Economies of scale

  - low marginal cost of additional students

- Quality of scale

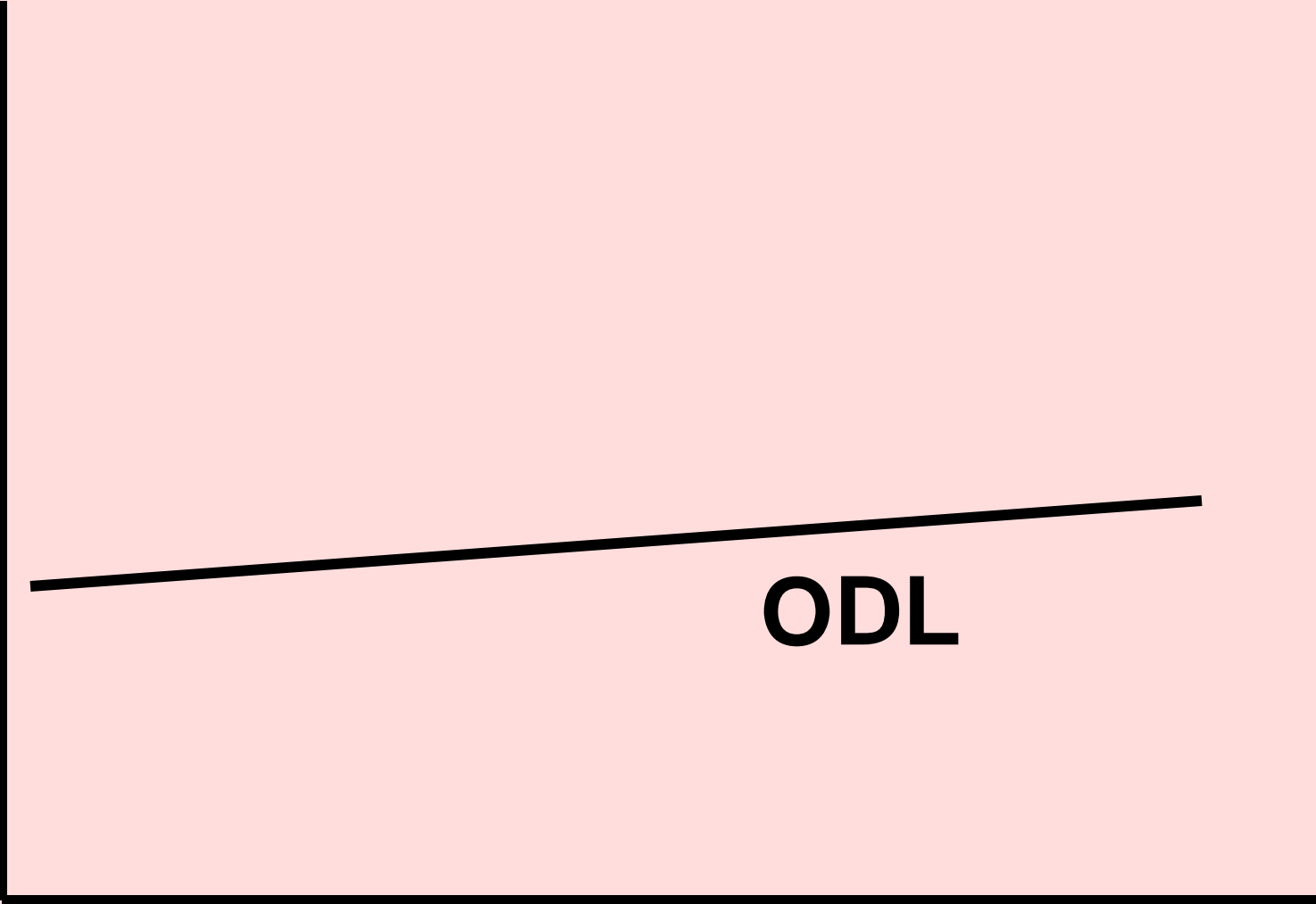
  - large numbers justify investment in quality
  - face-to-face sessions easier to organise

Total cost



Number of students

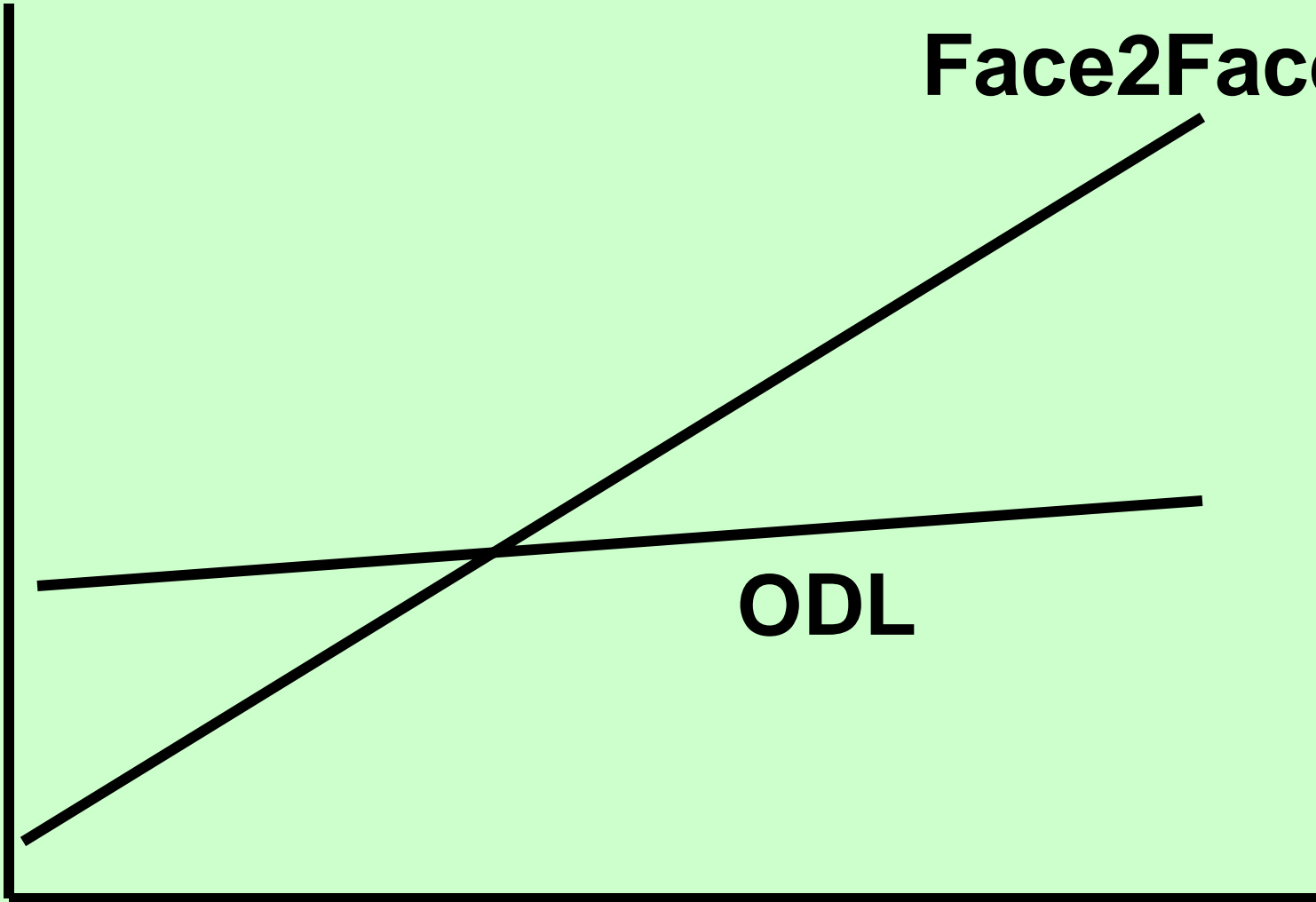
Total cost



**ODL**

Number of students

Total cost

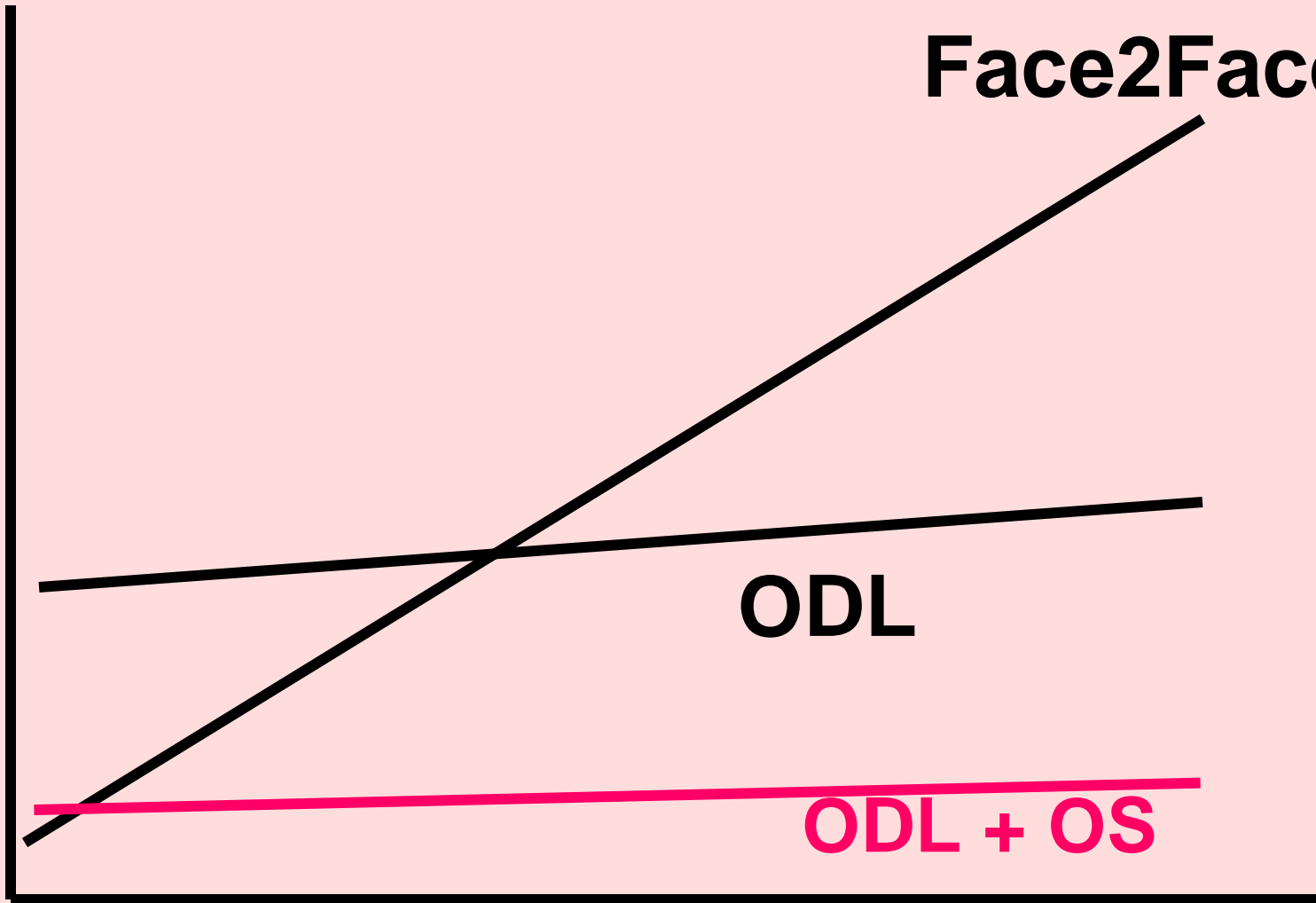


**Face2Face**

**ODL**

Number of students

Total cost



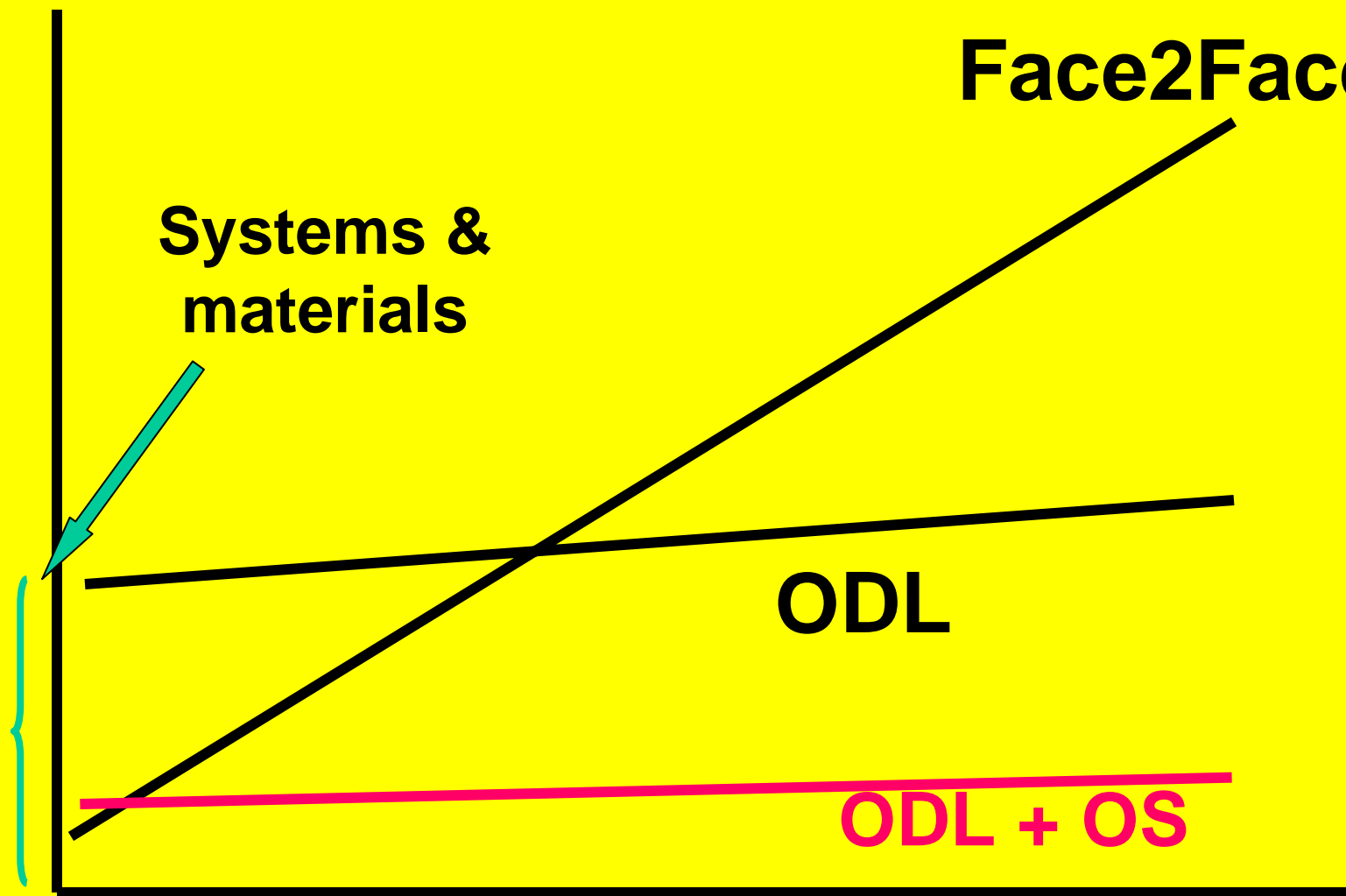
**Face2Face**

**ODL**

**ODL + OS**

Number of students

Total cost



**Face2Face**

**Systems & materials**

**ODL**

**ODL + OS**

Number of students



# Student data systems

- UK Open University (200k students)  
Moodle + CIRCE/OUTIS (Windows)

# Student data systems

- UK Open University (200k students)  
Moodle + CIRCE/OUTIS (Windows)
- Netaji Subhas Open University (75k)  
ASSESS  
(Linux and Windows)  
Brihaspati LMS (IIT Kanpur)

# Student data systems

**Choices should be pragmatic,  
not dogmatic!**

# Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures

[Consultant's report](#)

## LMS Evaluation Tool User Guide


This document is a written guide to start using the software tool for **evaluating Learning Management Systems (LMS's)**.

This guide is written for the persons who will be actually using the tool to evaluate the LMS software. It assumes that you have a basic understanding of spreadsheets, and some working knowledge of either Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org. It is not a reference for either of these spreadsheet products. Commissioned by the Commonwealth of Learning from 3waynet Inc.

August 2004

<http://www.col.org/Consultancies/04LMSEvaluation.htm>

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 [Evaluation Tool User Guide](#) (35 pages, 232 Kb. Acrobat/PDF download)

 [LMSReportCard](#) (Excel/XLS download)

[About downloading PDF files](#)

### INTRODUCTION

We have written this guide to help you start using a software tool for evaluating Learning Management Systems (LMS's). This evaluation tool was created and designed by 3Waynet and licensed to Commonwealth of Learning. The tool is in the format of a spreadsheet. This guide is written for the persons who will be actually using the tool to evaluate the LMS software. It assumes that you have a basic understanding of spreadsheets, and some working knowledge of either Microsoft Excel or OpenOffice.org. It is not a reference for either of these spreadsheet products.

We encourage you to open the spreadsheet and follow along as you go through this user guide. The first sections of this guide provide an overview of the tool. The concluding sections provide instruction on how to use the tool as it is. It does not provide instructions for modification.

# Seven issues for management:

1. Standard decision-making procedures
2. Long-term perspective

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3. Know OS costs and functions
4. Cross-training of IT staff
5. Start in Server Room
6. Variety and specialisation
7. Students write code

# Learning Materials

# Learning Materials

Sharing has happened, e.g.:

CEMBA/CEMPA

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia,  
Nigeria

TVET Teacher Diploma

Caribbean, Ghana, Pakistan

...but disappointing overall

# Barriers to sharing courseware:

- ‘Not invented here’
- Copyright
- Non-digital formats

The most promising innovation

OPEN EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES (OERs)

=

open course content, open  
source software and tools



# The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth





Collaborating to create  
open educational resources

# Programme development

By international electronic collaboration using open source learning management systems

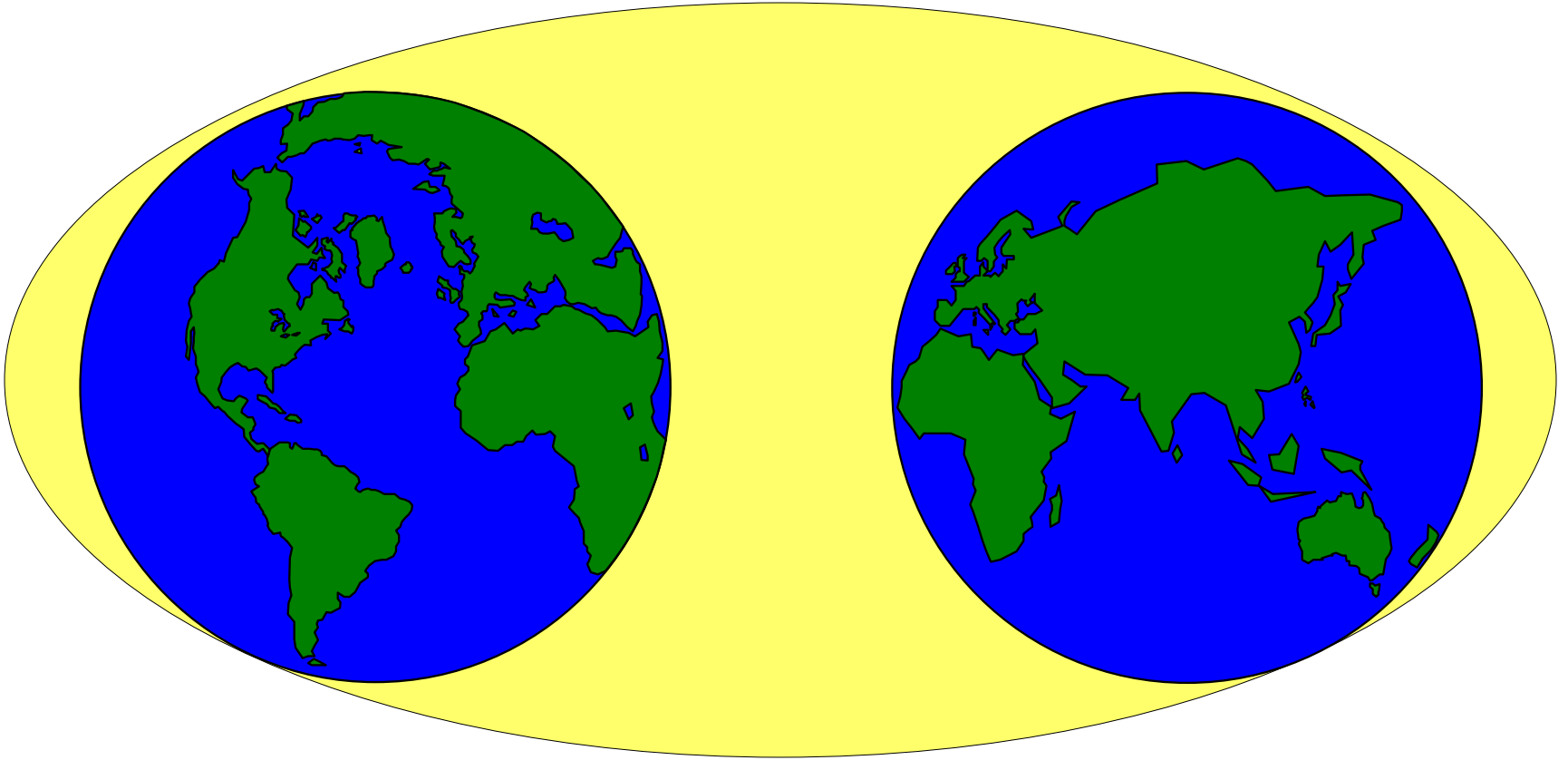
# Programme delivery

By a variety of appropriate means, not necessarily e-learning



22 States including  
Botswana, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius,  
Namibia, Seychelles and Swaziland.

# A Commonwealth-wide community



developing open educational resources

The most promising innovation

OPEN EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES (OERs)

=

open course content, open  
source software and tools

# Thank you!



**John Daniel**



**Paul West**

**Commonwealth of Learning**