Opening up for OpenLearn: issues in providing open educational resources

Conference or Workshop Item

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oro.open.ac.uk
Opening up for openlearn

Andreia Santos, Patrick McAndrew and Steve Godwin
Open Content Initiative: openlearn

- $10m+ two year programme
  - supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Strands
  - Academic
  - Technical: Production
  - Technical: Tools
  - Research and Evaluation
New to openlearn? Browse units and register for extra free resources. Returning to openlearn? Log-in now.

Case Studies
Tony: a Technology Lecturer
read more

openlearners say...

I think openlearn is a superb concept. I find the project exciting in a practical, philosophical and theoretical way!

Rachel MacDermot, Children’s Workforce Learning Network

spotLight on: William Wilberforce

March 2007 marks two hundred years since a Parliamentary Bill was passed to abolish the slave trade in the then British Empire, but how much do you know about William Wilberforce? Read more...

Sign up to the openlearn newsletter

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Email format:

HTML

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learning space

Access free educational resources from The Open University

LabSpace

Download Learningspace materials to remix and reuse however you want to!

making educational resources freely available
openlearn research

• Producing:
  – How to transform for open content?
  – What tools do we need?
  – Can we bring in content from the world?
  – Do we give new life to things the world values?

• Learning:
  – Do we have users?
  – Can we reach the world?
  – What do they do?
  – Does anyone learn anything?
Activity system (Engeström)
Implementation view

Tools: XML editor/ Moodle/ Pro-forma/ Transformatioh forms/ eRoom/ learningspace/ labspace

Subject: Academic

Object: Openlearn unit

Rules: Integrity Model/ Guidelines/ Proposal targets/ Steering group

Community: openlearn team/ wider OU/ World/ Collaborators

Division of Labour: Academic team/ Media team/ External editors/ Contracted staff/ Faculty liaison/ OU staff/ Volunteers
Analysed producer contradictions

- Academic team/ Media team and OU staff – who has final sign off
- Users- XML Editor
- Models for unit production
- Proposal targets

- Remove the sign-off process: improve after release
- Add in other formats and models
- Include new factors in the targets
Does the analysis help?

• Behind the scenes: based on observation
• Presentation tool to others: feedback and refinement
• Method for recording factors: neutral view
• Applied in other situations and projects
• Remains to be validated for this case
openlearn research

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How we will work with others

- Collaboration with Brazil:
  - translation of openlearn units
  - cross-cultural issues (context, language, institutional discourses and policies)
  - Two phases: implementation 1 and 2
  - Method: drawing on ethnography and action research
  - Disruptive?
  - Formal and informal learning
Summary

- Activity theory can provide a useful mechanism to understand complex practices within openlearn and help us to identify contradictions;

- The challenge for us is to balance applied research (fast feedback) and academic research in order to develop a greater understanding of the field.
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