Open Research Online

The Open University’s repository of research publications and other research outputs

Slides: Reaching out with OER: the public-facing open scholar and the benevolent academy

Conference Item

How to cite:


For guidance on citations see FAQs

© 2013 The authors
Version: Version of Record
Link(s) to article on publisher’s website:
http://www.medev.ac.uk/oer13/11/view/

Copyright and Moral Rights for the articles on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. For more information on Open Research Online’s data policy on reuse of materials please consult the policies page.

oro.open.ac.uk
Reaching out with OER: the Public-Facing Open Scholar and the benevolent academy

Dr Leigh-Anne Perryman, Research Associate, OER Research Hub, The Open University (leigh.a.perryman@open.ac.uk; @laperryman)

Tony Coughlan, Regional Academic, The Open University (t.coughlan@open.ac.uk)

Photo credit: Patrick Gensel, http://www.flickr.com/photos/12142935@N08/7402012502/. CC BY-NC-SA
The problem
From supply-push to demand-pull

Photo credit: Jamie McCaffrey, http://www.flickr.com/photos/15609463@N03/7728672184/. CC BY
The solution?
The background
The background
The Digital Scholar

Watch the video at http://youtu.be/ACU5T2x2tPE
A digital scholar reaches out
The Public-Facing Open Scholar

1. Find a community and identify its OEP readiness
1. Find a community and identify its OEP readiness

- **Participation**
  - Sustained over time
  - Commitment from a core group of participants
  - Emerging roles and hierarchy

- **Cohesion**
  - Support and tolerance
  - Turn taking and response
  - Humour and playfulness

- **Identity**
  - Group self-awareness
  - Shared language and vocabulary
  - Sense of Community

- **Creative capability**
  - Igniting sense of purpose
  - Multiple points of view expressed and contradicted or challenged
  - Creation of knowledge links and patterns
The Public-Facing Open Scholar

1. Find a community and identify its OEP readiness

2. Listen to the needs of the community
The Public-Facing Open Scholar

1. Find a community and identify its OEP readiness
2. Listen to the needs of the community
3. Search OER repositories and collections for resources that might meet those needs
4. Share those resources with the community

Photo Credit: <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/12142935@N08/7402012502/">Patrick Gensel</a> via <a href="http://compfight.com">Compfight</a> <a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/">cc</a>
The Public-Facing Open Scholar

1. Find a community and identify its OEP readiness

2. Listen to the needs of the community

3. Search OER repositories and collections for resources that might meet those needs

4. Share those resources with the community

5. Disseminate information about the community’s unmet needs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20:50 10/3/2013</td>
<td>A truly happy Mummy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: jm</td>
<td>Wyx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:13 10/3/2013</td>
<td>References from work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: smileycat</td>
<td>1Talitha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:53 10/3/2013</td>
<td>Telling the truth/making things up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: little bear</td>
<td>lillybell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30 10/3/2013</td>
<td>my blues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: jm</td>
<td>margy gee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:44 10/3/2013</td>
<td>Manouvering March Minefields - ARF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: shadow</td>
<td>shadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:53 10/3/2013</td>
<td>Medical appt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: Milly</td>
<td>Monkey Magic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings

• Creative capability stage reached
• Frequent posts requesting help (emotionally draining?)
• Interpersonal/counselling dimension
• Anonymity creates a level playing field
• Different approach to information-gathering
Implications

• Being a public-facing open scholar is likely to require long-term involvement + substantial time commitment

• Extend Step 2 – ‘Listen to the needs of the community’ – to include learning about culture & interaction modes

• Consider the need to explain how resources relate to community needs

• The challenge of anonymity
Summary

Public-facing open scholars have the potential to:

• Extend the beneficial impact of existing OER

• Prompt institutions to release new OER to meet the needs of people outside HE (e.g. the VCS)

• Help VCS communities become self-educating

BUT.....
Real-world challenges and the Benevolent Academy