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Learning from the innovative open practices of three international health projects outside academia

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Learning from the innovative open practices of three international health projects: IACAPAP, VCPH and Physiopedia

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Banff, Canada, 21-25 April 2015
Global shortfall of healthcare workers

‘A crisis in human resources’

- 2013: 7.2 million shortfall
- 2035: 12.9 million shortfall

The projects...

- Focus on specific health professions
- Have links with professional bodies
- Use volunteers and are non-profit
- Aim to share expertise
- Play an international role including in LICs
- Are based outside HE
- Use CC licenses
- Use social media
The projects...

Collaborative open textbook
International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions

- Est. 75 years ago
- 63 member organisations
The projects...

The Virtual Campus of Public Health (VCPH)

- Launched 2003
- 140+ partner institutions in Central & S. America
The projects...

Physiopedia

- Est. 2009
- At its heart - wiki developed by a community of physiotherapists
# Evaluation methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>OPAL - OER use</th>
<th>OPAL Social Practices</th>
<th>Vrieling</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OER creation</td>
<td>OER use</td>
<td>OER re-use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the background to your using open practices (incl CC licence) in the project?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any more dimensions of * other than that which is publicly viewable on the website?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could you say something about the relationship between institutional members and individuals in your project... E.g. who is your main audience... Who is prioritised...</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what ways do people collaborate in your project?</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what ways do people involved in your project</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>OPAL - OER use</th>
<th>OPAL Social Practices</th>
<th>Vrieling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website observation and analysis</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document/ object analysis</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prof. Joseph M. Rey
Head of Psychiatry at
Sydney Medical School,
Notre Dame University,
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Founder of IACAPAP
textbook.
Edgardo de Gracia
System analyst & designer at Ministry of Health, Panama
VCPH national consultant
Universal access to physiotherapy and physical therapy knowledge, a collaborative community project to educate and professionally develop...

...this is our contribution to global health.

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Latest from Physiospot, our online magazine
- Sitting tai chi improves the balance control and muscle strength of community-dwelling persons with spinal cord injuries
- Rehabilitation after traumatic brain injury
- Effect of exercise on motor and nonmotor symptoms of Parkinson's disease
- Factors predicting resilience in people with spinal cord injury during transition from inpatient rehabilitation to the community
- Aging and balance control in response to external perturbations
- The effects of pilates mat exercise on the balance ability of elderly females
IACAPAP Textbook of Child and Adolescent Mental Health

- CC-BY
- 49 Chapters
- English & French
- Fully interactive
- 60,000 visits in first 3 years
- Facebook
IACAPAP Textbook

Innovation

- Collaborative, cross-continent textbook production
- 100+ authors, 24 countries, 5 continents
- Dynamic - ongoing updating and feedback
“The main thing is that it facilitates access. In many countries, if child psychiatrists don’t have access to open resources like our textbook they don’t have access to any resources at all. It’s not merely a case of saving money. It’s having nothing, or having something.”
VCPH

Innovation

- Multilingual: Spanish, Portuguese & English
- Localised for culture and language
- Open policies
“We use open practices to promote equity in health, to combat disease and improve the quality of lives of people of the Americas. While openness is not all-pervasive in public-health institutions in Central and Southern America VCPH hopes to change the culture.”
Physiopedia

- Wiki: 1400 articles; 150,000+ users from 200+ countries per month
- Open badges
- Open courses
- MOOC
- GFDL + CC-BY-NC-SA
Physiopedia

Innovation

- Health profession capitalising on Web 2.0
- Professional wiki
- Open badging
- Big impact/very small team
"A lot of people who use our content don’t otherwise have any access to this kind of information - they’re in low-income countries…Being open enables these people to use up-to-date resources and achieve impact on clinical practice"
Implications

- Existing conception of open educational practices is too embedded in universities and individual students.
- These projects: OEP = vocational learning & institutional collaboration.
- Need for new frameworks to capture this, plus impact and localisation.
- Is this unique to health?