Creating a Virtual Research Environment to build a research Community

Conference or Workshop Item

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Doctoral Training at The Open University

Creating a Virtual Research Environment to build a research community
Our research community

- 1200 PGRs (global)
- Diverse
- Wide range of subjects
Why build a VRE?

- We aim to provide parity of experience for all PGRs
- Support both on campus and at a distance
- Online services customised for graduate need
- Integrated research community students, supervisors, partner institutions administrators
OU model delivers access at scale to global users

- 20,000 research publications freely available
- 6000 people in 15 countries participated in an OU-led citizen science project
- 18 million visits to OpenLearn, The OU's free learning website
- 800 videos, The UK's largest university channel
- 60,000 unique users per day on the VLE
- 40 million downloads on iTunes
The VRE is an online portal to resources and tools.
SEPnet – A research community within the VRE
DTP communities on the VRE
Affiliated Research Centres
Training within the VRE
Asynchronously, synchronously or “flipped” in face to face sessions
Community tools
The VRE listens to the community
Social Media and other community tools
The VRE organises existing resources for the PGR student.
The VRE is designed to continually evolve and adapt to the community needs.
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