

INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY IN LEARNING AND EDUCATION: OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

- ✘ Our young people require skills that translate beyond the classroom into dynamic lifelong engagement with their local, national, and global communities.
- ✘ Productivity gains are the method by which we can have enough resources to pursue advances in learning, teaching and assessment.

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- ✘ Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning materials that are freely available for use, remixing and redistribution.
- ✘ Motivations for OER include:
 - + Improvement of teaching materials
 - + Efficiency and productivity gains
 - + Standardization

OPEN TEXTBOOKS

✘ **Issue**

- + Textbooks are costly for students of all levels, as well as for federal and state governments and publishers.

✘ **Key Statistics**

- + Textbook manufacturing: \$250,000 per book. [1]
- + Textbook for community college students: \$900/year [1]
- + Amount saved by one open textbook at one community college in one semester: \$80,000 total across 680 students in 17 sections [2]

✘ **Build upon 2007 Higher Education Opportunity Act**

OPEN TEXTBOOKS

× **Recommendations**

- + Publicity campaigns and workshops to educate students and teachers on where to find open textbooks
 - × Integrate open textbook awareness with existing school library literacy programs
- + Fund development of new open textbooks

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

✘ **Issue**

- + The costs of time and money that educators spend on developing curriculum detracts from resources that could otherwise be spent on professional development, teaching and mentoring.

✘ **Case Studies**

- + Curriki- <http://www.curriki.org> [3]
- + Connexions – <http://cnx.org> [4]

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

× Recommendations

- + Create and disseminate curriculum modules which can be edited and translated and re-arranged, via the collaboration of a networked community of educators.
 - × Courses developed in a modular fashion so that they can be adapted and sequenced in a manner suited to the goals and needs of different classroom contexts.
 - × Community of scholars developing curriculum repository, ensuring quality control to match professional standards and easing burden of initial development of materials.

ACCREDITATION AND STANDARDS

✘ **Issue**

- + UNESCO'S Virtual University Forum on Open Educational Resources, states, "The main challenge to widening access to OER lies in overcoming reticence and uncertainty within the academic community." [5] A universal set of best practices and standards are a primary factor to increase confidence in OER resources.

✘ **Background**

- + Beginning with MIT's OER program, there are now whole series of OER testbeds. A survey of these centers will assess what is working, and what is not.

ACCREDITATION AND STANDARDS

× **Recommendations**

- + Create and distribute national best practices and standards regarding the creation, distribution, and use of Open Educational Resources.
- + Utilize existing OER centers, such as University of Michigan and OpenCourseWare Consortium, to assess national and global best practices.
- + Centralize OER resources in an easily accessible domain, allowing educators and community of learning members to quickly access quality materials.

LIFELONG & LIFE-WIDE LEARNING

✦ **Issue**

- + Education neither begins nor ends in the classroom.

✦ **Background**

- + Knowledge acquisition is not restricted to the brick and mortar school. [6]
- + Knowledge acquired is not restricted to use in the workplace. [7]
- + A changing vocational climate requires us to adapt to how we learn, train, and educate. [8]

LIFELONG & LIFE-WIDE LEARNING

Recommendations

- ✘ Recognize and implement foundations that embrace lifelong and life-wide learning.
 - + Create policy-driven solutions that support foundations for access to education beyond existing structures, and that embrace lifelong and life-wide learning.
 - + Integrate accreditation standards for formal, informal, and non-formal education in order to facilitate distance-learning and experiential-learning environments.
 - + Support efforts to maintain high quality education across the spectrum of open educational tools such that learners in all walks of life can benefit from the best resources this nation has to offer.

CONCLUSION

- ✘ Our young people require skills that translate beyond the classroom into dynamic lifelong engagement with their local, national, and global communities.

- ✘ How to get there:
 1. Publicity campaigns on where to find existing open textbooks
 2. Foster social network of educators to increase curriculum exchange and modular material development
 3. Create and distribute national best practices and standards regarding the creation, distribution, and use of OER
 4. Integrate accreditation standards with OER to facilitate continuing education, distance-learning, and experiential-learning environments.

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THANK YOU

Questions?