



Practising Open
Education

PRACTISING OPEN EDUCATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2010

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first monthly newsletter, which is distributed to project partners through the Project JISCMail list. These updates will be included on the project website and project blog for the subject, and HE, community to access.

We would encourage you to forward any information you think would be good to share with the group to Steve for future newsletters.

This first newsletter is intended to convey the project aims, processes and deliverables outlined in the proposal. The proposal, written to comply with the requirements of the funders, may be rather lengthy and complex for a wider audience. The following will hopefully set out our intentions in more comprehensible style!

AIMS

The Practising Open Education project, as part of the Cascade Strand of the UK OER Programme aims to build upon the findings and experiences of the pilot ADM-OER Project. Working with six new institutional partners the project seeks to embed effective OER practices and policies within the six participating institutions and release a significant number of art, design and media open educational resources. We think that these aims will be achieved if departments have a good understanding of motivations and barriers from a number of perspectives (student, lecturer, IT service, library, management) and have access to available support.

We aim to support each participating institution in developing Open Educational Practice in the following ways:

FOCUS GROUPS

With your help, we will be holding a focus group in your institution. The aim of the focus group will be to find out about your departments motivations for engaging in open education and also some of the opportunities and barriers that may exist. We will be sending further details about the focus groups (participants, questions, etc) in due course.

On the basis of the information we collect at the focus group the project manager will prepare a report that outlines the findings of the discussion and some suggestions for developing your department's Open Educational Resources Action Plan. We will also provide details of support available from the Subject Centre and from other organisations involved in Open Education.

ACTION PLANS

The departmental project leader will draw upon this report and work with colleagues to develop the OER action plan. The plan will include actions to address barriers and capitalise on motivations for OER production and use and ultimately embed effective OER practice and policies.

FUNDS

You will receive £5,000 to be used to support implementation of the action plan.

REPORTING

The project will use formative and summative evaluation. The project manager will be responsible for submitting collated information to the funders as an Interim Report (February 2011) and Final Reports (August-September 2011).

For the Interim Report the project manager will communicate with the partners, by telephone, and email, to discuss the project's progress and collate this information.

For the Final Reports the partners will be required to provide a written report detailing the progress and implementation of the Action Plan. The project manager will provide guidance on this and deadline will be July 2011.

LETTERS OF AGREEMENT

As part of the funding requirements the project is required to have a letter of agreement between the ADM-Subject Centre and the project partners. Rather than a complex consortium agreement with all partners this will be based on the existing project partner's 'terms of agreement' currently used by the subject centre which outlines areas of responsibility.

The letter is currently being drafted by the project manager and will be forwarded to you prior to the deadline, December 16.

NEXT STEPS

- We are in the process of writing a full **project plan** (as requested by the funders). We will send this to you when the funders have responded with any necessary changes.
- **Department visits** - We will be contacting the partners directly to arrange a suitable time for Steve and Debbie to visit all the partners, introduce ourselves and discuss the project.
- We have to provide JISC / Academy with a project **Letter of Agreement** signed by your head of department (Deadline 16 December 2010)
- **Focus group** - we will be contacting you with further information.
- We have a **Project Blog** <<http://admopened.wordpress.com/>> and will be using this to disseminate information about the project. Please use it to talk about your plans and goals as project partners and encourage colleagues to become involved through the blog. [The project partner leaders/key contacts have been included as 'authors' and should be able to post content directly. If you have any problems or wish to add other colleagues to the 'author' list please contact Steve]
- We have a **Project Website** <<http://www.adm.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/sector-projects/practicing-open-education-2013-developing-the-potential-of-open-educational-resources-in-art-design-and-media>> - To add information / edit contact Steve
- **Promote the Project** - We would like to make sure that everyone gets to hear about the Practising Open Education project. It would be very useful if you disseminated information about the project within your institution. Please use the logos and information in this newsletter about the 'the aims' and 'focus groups' to encourage involvement in the project.

USEFUL INFORMATION

OER Infokit

The first round of the JISC / Academy OER Programme learnt a lot about the processes of releasing educational resources and this information may be of value to you and your project.

This is all available from the OER Infokit: <https://openeducationalresources.pbworks.com/>

Synthesis and Evaluation Report

McGill, L., Helen Beetham, Isobel Falconer, Allison Littlejohn (2010) 'Summary of Key Lessons' from Pilot Programme Synthesis and Evaluation Report, JISC Synthesis and Evaluation Project <http://www.caledonianacademy.net/spaces/oer/index.php?n=Main.SummaryOfKeyLessons>

You may find useful information, guidance and valuable links on the pilot **ADM-OER Project Webpage** <<http://www.adm.heacademy.ac.uk/projects/sector-projects/contentfolder.2010-04-22.7419312795>>

[Scroll down to download PDFs of all the documents and reports from the project]

For any information on the project please contact the Project Manager: Stephen Mallinder, or
Project Consultant: Debbie Flint

Many thanks,
Steve and Debbie

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE UK OER PROGRAMME

JISC and the Higher Education Academy are collaborating on the Open Educational Resources programme. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has provided an initial £5.7 million of funding for 29 pilot projects (April 2009 to March 2010) which will explore how we can expand the open availability and use of free, high quality online educational content.

These resources showcase the high quality of UK higher education and our vision is that they will be used and reused globally. Such resources might include full courses, course materials, complete modules, videos, assessments, tests, simulations, worked examples or software. The programme will support universities and colleges in exploring intellectual property rights, cultural issues, technical requirements and data management issues.