

Status of open educational resource (OER) development in Malaysia (Abstract)

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STATUS OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE (OER) DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA

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The Malaysian higher education system has been evolving over the years to stay abreast with the global advancement in technology. The Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint (MEB) 2015-2025 focuses on five aspirations, i.e. access, quality, equity, unity and efficiency. The MEB outlines 10 transformational Shifts to spur excellence in higher education in the country. Shift#9 focuses on development of globalized online learning, encompassing the use of blended learning, use of OER and MOOC.

An online search exercise conducted by Wawasan Open University (WOU) revealed that less than twenty higher education institutions in Malaysia are actively involved in OER related activities.

WOU has been one of the pioneers in the adoption of open educational resources (*sensu* Butcher 2015) in course development and delivery. In 2012 the university instituted two essential policies namely (i) WOU Open License Policy and (ii) WOU OER Policy to provide an enabling environment for building OER awareness, training, use and reuse in course development, and research.

OER Initiatives carried out by WOU include:

- Development of an *OER Asia toolkit* (2010)
- Formation of OER Integration Steering Committee in WOU (2011)
- Three OER Training Workshops (2011, 2014, 2015)
- OER-Asia Website hosted by WOU (2011)
- Two Regional Symposia on OER (2012, 2014)
- Two online OER Repositories (2014, 2015)

Since 2011, academics in WOU have been undergoing training in the search, creation and repurposing of OER for course material development. To date fourteen courses at under- and post-graduate levels have been developed by fully or partially using available OER materials.

With the support from the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), WOU developed a set of 5 modules for Professional Development of Educators on OER based e-learning. Based on these modules a MOOC on OER and another on Research Methods were offered in 2015.

OER Asia (www.oerasia.org), launched in 2011 is an Asian Forum created by WOU to share information, views and opinion, research studies and knowledge resources in addition to guidelines and toolkits on good practices on and about OER in the Asian region.

OER Repository (<http://weko.wou.edu.my>) is an online collection of WOU's OER, learning objects metadata, and other learning materials. This is a database created by WOU using WEKO - an open-source repository software developed by the National Institute of Informatics, Japan. A total of 380 records are available from the WEKO's repository. Usage statistics indicate 50,548 views were recorded during 2014- 2016 with 65,909 downloads out of which more than 25% downloads were done by external agencies/individuals.

The **OER@AsiaHub Repository** (<http://oerasia-repository.wou.edu.my>) currently holds 21,605 records. Records indicate that it has been accessed many times (31,194 clicks) by many, including external individuals and agencies.

Five capacity building workshops have been conducted by WOU (IDRC-ROER4D Project) in India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, focusing on processes of OER integration in ODL course development.

Achievement of the above by WOU are attributable to critical success factors like (i) institutional commitment; (ii) senior management support; (iii) enabling policies; (iv) mainstreaming faculty capacity building; (v) mandating quality assured OER-based course contents.

Keywords: OER, ODL, HRD