

third edition

UOC UNESCO CHAIR IN E-LEARNING INTERNATIONAL  
SEMINAR

# OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

Barcelona

22, 23 and 24 November 2006





The aim of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) UNESCO Chair in e-learning is to foster an integrated research, learning, information and documentation system on the positive effect that the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) represents for universities.

The promotion of equal opportunities in access to ICTs is the central aim upon which the activity of the Chair is structured, becoming the integrating element that provides coherence to its main activities.

UOC UNESCO Chair in e-learning

## ADDRESSED TO

- Senior managers on university governing boards: rectors, vice rectors and executive managers or administrators.
- Academics who are working on research projects about the challenges posed by the development of Open Educational Resources (OER).
- Managers of the processes for introduction and use of e-learning at higher education institutions where the creation, use and publication of OER play a leading role: the rector's representative for the Implementation and use of new technologies, e-learning directors, Faculty deans, innovation centre directors, etc.

## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

The International Seminal has been conceived as a framework for dissemination and exchange of knowledge and experiences linked to the relationship between the university and e-learning. Its aim is to look deeply into the knowledge and analysis of the main elements and challenges that the twenty-first century university faces.

The III International Seminar offers a change from the two previous seminars, as it will specifically tackle one of the central elements that form part of the current debate in the field of e-learning: that of the challenges facing higher education institutions as a result of the creation, introduction, use and dissemination of OER.

The International Seminal of the Chair evolves, therefore, from a generic focus which, in the past, has covered the fundamental challenges faced during the first years of e-learning introduction into university, towards a much more defined focus, which, over the years, will revise the central elements of the development of e-learning and its implication for the institutional dynamics of universities and centres of higher education.



# INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES

The International Seminar will be structured around four themed axes that will link OER to educational, technological, economic and legal aspects.

## educational aspects

How can you actualize OER?  
How can you organise their consultation?

The main aim of a repository is to ensure visibility and to facilitate the lifecycle of the contents. This means implementing their re-use, the documentation of their uses, processes and results, the way in which this information on usage should be provided to other potential users, or the collaborative assessment of the whole lifecycle.

## technological aspects

What are OER? How can they be created? Where can they be published? How can they be arranged?

The greatest problem for an institution to start up an open contents repository is that of critical mass; the second problem has to do with its visibility and quality. An OER-based learning process needs a formal definition of the concept of open content, its teaching and educational requirements, and of the scenario where the learning process occurs. The central problem that must be addressed is that of the management of the lifecycle: creation, publication, usage, documentation and analysis of this use, and updating in accordance with the results obtained.

## economic aspects

What economic implication does the introduction of OER have? What will the financial effects be for the institution? Does it make sense to offer teaching materials for free while the institution pays for their production and updating costs?

OER are a clear element for the promotion of the autonomy of societies in access to culture and knowledge. However, while the positive effects are obvious for more deprived societies and groups, it may appear not quite so for higher education institutions from the economic point of view. The impact of the introduction of OER covers aspects such as intellectual property costs, or the effects on enrolment figures, which must be tackled responsibly when creating an OER repository.

## legal aspects

How can we manage their use, dissemination and treatment? What conclusions can we draw from their publication? What challenges does intellectual property management pose? What solutions can be applied?

The appearance of initiative such as Creative Commons is an interesting starting point that enables the creators of educational contents to tackle the possible problems to be faced in terms of their potential commercial uses. The visibility of the OER repository is an important aspect to be determined. Access is determined by the technological infrastructure that supports the repository, but also by the policies adopted in each case.



The aim is that Seminar participants obtain in-depth knowledge of the central elements that act as a basis for the debate on OER and their management, but fundamentally the way in which these elements affect higher education institutions from the organisational point of view.

By explaining the practical experiences related to the creation, introduction and use of OER by academics and members of the governing boards of different universities, as well as conference with an essentially theoretical content, the Seminars offers participants the possibility of reflecting and sharing their experience regarding the most significant questions and challenges posed by OER.

# METHODOLOGY

The sessions will be organized around case studies that are linked to university institutions and set within a prior theoretical framework. Papers will be the prologue to a unique, in-depth debate where participants will have the opportunity to share experiences regarding use, management and dissemination of OER.

The debate and reflection will concentrate on analysing the main challenges, benefits, and drawbacks of creation, introduction, dissemination and use of OER by universities, so making it possible to obtain a global, integrated vision of all elements.

Higher education institutions managers, pioneers in the introduction of this kind of educational resources, will present the experiences of their institutions and the challenges that these experiences pose, as well as the technical and organisational solutions that have been employed in their management.

# PROGRAMME

	Wednesday, 22 November	Thursday, 23 November	Friday, 24 November
9.00 am	Accreditation and delivery of documentation. <b>Presentation of the Seminar.</b>		
9.30 am	<b>Conference.</b> Open Educational Resources: institutional challenges.  CONFIRMATION PENDING.	<b>Case Study 2.</b> Massachusetts Institute of Open Educational Resources: legal Technology. Conference by Hal Abelson, aspects. MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.	legal Resources: institutional challenges.  CONFIRMATION PENDING.
10.30 am	<b>Colloquium.</b>	<b>Colloquium.</b>	<b>Colloquium.</b>
11.15 am	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break.
11.45 am	Open Educational Resources: educational aspects, by Richard G. Baraniuk, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rice University (USA).	Open Educational Resources: technological aspects, by Miguel Ángel Sicilia, Knowledge Management Research Group, Alcalá University (Spain).	<b>Conclusions.</b> Open Educational Resources: institutional challenges.
12.45 am	<b>Colloquium.</b>	<b>Colloquium.</b>	<b>Closing session</b>
1.30 pm	Break.	Break.	
3.30 pm	<b>Case Study 1.</b> Open University UK. Open Educational Resources: economic Conference by Neill Sclater, Director of OU UK Virtual Learning Environment Project.	aspects.  CONFIRMATION PENDING	
4.30 pm	<b>Colloquium.</b>	<b>Colloquium.</b>	
5.15 pm	End of session.	End of session.	