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Open Educational Resources in the Social Sciences:
Evaluation Issues

Graham R Gibbs
Project aims

- Deposit 360 credits worth of material.
- **We did it.**
  - In good order. Conversion, preparation, mapping tool.
- Examine:
  - The taken-for-granted, tacit assumptions behind teachers’ selection of topics, issues, content, examples, exercises, pedagogic approaches etc.
  - The issues relating to a contested and debated discipline (issues – how to find, sustainability)
- Evaluation focussed on depositors’ views
  - To identify issues to address for others to do the same
What depositors assumed

Majority view

- The main users will be knowledge experts
- Quality control is provided by university procedures
- Accessibility - also as per university procedures
- Sustainability - just the short term, but no clear view
- Prerequisites - not a key issue, assumed resource is adaptable – material offered at diff levels.
Two issues

Evaluation raised lots of issues. Here focus on two

- What is the unit of resource for deposition and retrieval?
- How to find the resource you need?
- These two are related.
Unit of resource

- Options include:
  - The Course (20 credits, 30 credits)
  - The topic (maybe over several sessions)
  - The session (e.g. the lecture)
  - An example or exercise (perhaps as an RLO)
  - A class exercise
  - An example, perhaps as a video, audio, text.
C-SAP project

- Main focus on the course
- Some breakdown into sessions and some into RLOs etc.
- Supporting documentation is about the course.
Finding what you need

- How to find it.
  - Use course title?
  - Metadata (Jacs codes!)
  - Google type free text search

- How to use it - pedagogically
  - Assumes user is experienced teacher
  - Prerequisites and guidance needed if user is student

- How to extract just the bit you need
  - File formats, URLs etc.
Conclusions

- Variability of resource units and issues of finding resources still to be solved.
- Jorum not well set up to address this.
- Needs more work to bring access to educational resources to same level as access to research literature.