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The dissemination and discovery of Open Educational Resources. A case study of research methods.

Graham R Gibbs

University of Huddersfield



Social Sciences: Ways of Knowing, Ways of Learning
HEA Social Sciences Conference, 28-29 May 2012, Liverpool, UK



Open Educational Resources

- **Definitions**
- “teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use or re-purposing by others”
 - The Hewlett foundation
- “digitised materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research”
 - OECD



Literature on OER use/creation

- **Lots of looking.** Teachers in education (Petrides 2008).
 - 92% searched for materials,
 - 67% willing to deposit,
 - 25% actually did
- Health staff **reluctant** to put stuff on the web. Shared internally, not externally Rolfe (2012)
- Resource **context matters** (discipline, topic etc.) **BUT** more specific resource means harder to adapt for use (Wiley 1999, Calverley & Shephard 2003)
- **Sustainability issue.** OER repositories have short life. 11 repositories discontinued in noughties, only 2 over 5 years old. Freisen (2009)



UK resources - examples

- [National Centre for Research Methods](#)
- [ESDS & ESDS Qualidata](#)
- [Realities](#)
- [Methods@Manchester](#)
- [You Tube](#) and [Vimeo](#)
- iTunes University & [YouTube EDU \(University\)](#)
- [V-Resort](#)
- [TQRMUL](#)
- [RLO-CETL](#)
- [Jorum](#)
- [CAQDAS Networking Project](#)
- [Exploring Online Research Methods](#)
- [Online QDA](#)



Research Methods OER Dissemination - Project Overview

- Key objective: to improve the discoverability of OER materials to support research methods teaching
- Two parts:
 1. Explore how teaching staff search and use methods resources through:
 - » Online survey of practices
 - » Expert workshops & user groups
 2. Development of 'Front End' web site which incorporates elements identified as important

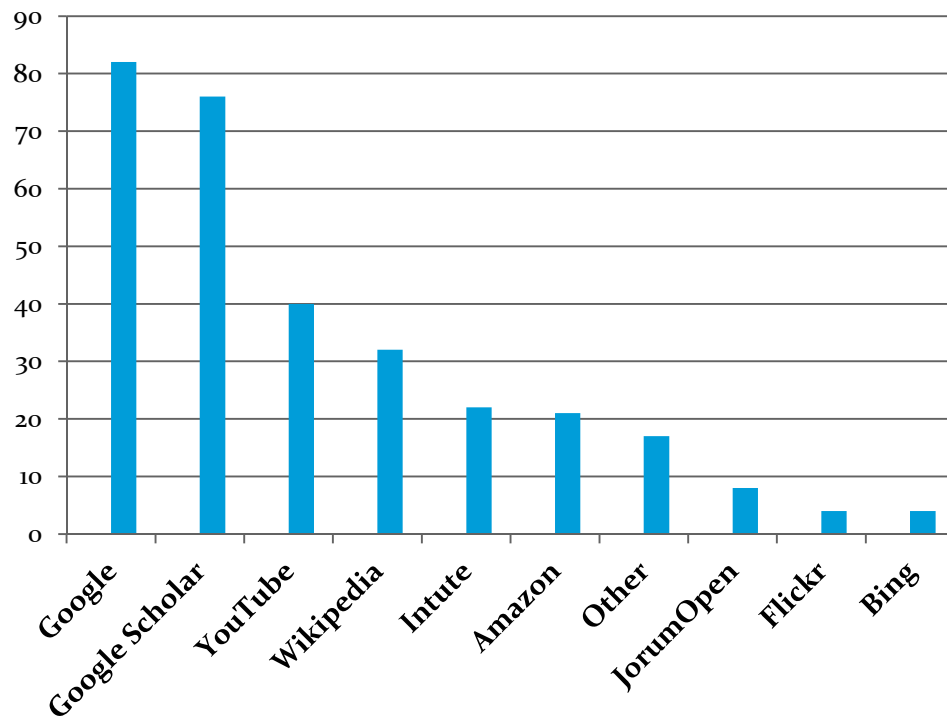


Online Survey, Key Findings (n=99)

- Most academics make specific searches for resources rather than engage in general searches on an ongoing basis
- Who created the resource is important
- Knowing the disciplinary context of a learning resource is useful
- Quality is more important than format
- Mixed views on user ratings (e.g. Amazon style stars)
- Copyright not regarded as important if used for educational purposes
- Most popular sites/search methods are Google, Google Scholar, YouTube and Wikipedia



Sites used most often to search for resources



Key Findings of Expert Workshops

- Trust is key issue – people prefer in-house or resources from known universities (or publishers)
- Own data sets preferred for teaching methods
- Licensing not seen as an issue within academic institutions
- Disciplinary origin of resources less relevant than using examples that connect to students
- Most participants not keen to submit OERs



Key Findings of User-Testing

- User problems with all OER sites
- Number of irrelevant results weakened trust
- Presentation of sites was confusing
- Not enough information given about resource author etc.
- Slow download time of resource plus additional barriers
- Google considered more effective for finding resources



What academics want

- [Teaching Research Methods and Using Open Resources](#)
- 10 min 12 sec onwards (for 5 mins 18 secs)



Solutions

- [Methods](#)
- [EdMediaShare](#)
- [Cloudworks](#)
- **BUT**
- How long will they last?
- Who curates them?



Methods

- Customised Google Search
- Collection of videos
- Reviews of OERs

Methods
Social Research Methods Educational Resources & Resource Reviews

Home Reviews Resources Events About us Contribute Links Log in Search the Methods website for resources Search

Helping academics find the right resources for their teaching

Find Resources
Customised tool to [search high-quality sites](#).
Classified list of recommended videos and other resources.

Read the Reviews
[Academics' views](#) about social research methods resources and how to use them

Events
Listing of [events and training sessions](#) about social research methods

Join the Community
Comment on the resources and the reviews.
[Contribute your own reviews](#) about resources.
Suggest good resources

Welcome to the Methods website. Our aim is to facilitate and encourage the use of educational resources, and especially open educational resources in the teaching and learning of social research methods in higher education. Our target audience is teachers of social research methods in higher education, from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds, who have used or wish to use resources in their teaching.

We hope that in addition to reading the reviews, you will also want to contribute your own reviews or suggest videos to be added to our listing. Please click on the Contribute tab to see how to do that.

Teaching Research Methods and Using Open [Share](#) [More info](#)

Highlighted Video

previous video next video

I have some interview data!
What next?
Grounded Theory, Coding & Analysis
Ian Robertson

I've got some interview data! What next?
Ian Robertson
Originally posted on 18/03/2008

Click the bold heading at the top of the grey band to access our video page and play the video or get a link to the original.

The linked arrows you see at the sides simply move to the next/previous thumbnail ... they do not play the video.

Unfortunately, there are too many video variants to enable playing the videos directly here.

Highlighted events



EdMediaShare

- Collection of videos
- Only embeddable videos
- Recommended and with some meta data

The screenshot displays the EdMediaShare website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'EdMediaShare', 'Share', 'Browse', and 'Contact' links, along with the 'JISC Digital Media' logo and a 'Login' button. A search bar is located below the navigation. The main content area features a grid of video thumbnails. The first row includes a video titled 'Teaching Research Methods and Using Open...', a video titled 'It's good to EdMediaShare', and a video titled 'Dial-e Learning Designs in 67 seconds'. Below this is a 'Recent Media' section with a 'See all >' link, containing a grid of video thumbnails with titles like 'Rearrange the NVivo 9 desktop for...', 'Scatterplots in SPSS/PASW', and 'Command - Recode into Same or...'. To the right of the video grid is an 'About this Site' section with text explaining the site's purpose: 'This site is for you to share the video you use to support your teaching, learning and research, and find video that others have found useful.' It also mentions that the site is managed by JISC Digital Media and provides a link to a quick survey.



Cloudworks

- Recommended sites
- Some commentary but not standardised.
- Project now finished?

The screenshot shows the Cloudworks website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'cloudworks' logo and links for Home, Clouds, Cloudscapes, Events, Tags, People, and Support. Below the navigation bar, a welcome message reads: 'Welcome to Cloudworks, a place to share, find and discuss learning and teaching ideas and experiences.' To the right of the welcome message is a search bar and a 'Log in' / 'Sign up' button. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Featured Cloudscapes' featuring a word cloud and a link to 'Widening Participation Conference 2012 - Discourses of Inclusion in Higher Education'; 'Conferences' with a monthly filter (May, June, July, All) and a list of recent events; 'Popular' with a filter for 'Clouds' and 'Cloudscapes' and a list of popular items; 'News' with a recent update about the site's development; 'Cloudstreams' with links to 'All activity on the site' and 'All activity on items you are following'; and 'Active Clouds' with a list of active items and a link to 'View all 4774 Clouds'.



Solution No. 2

- Use University Repositories for OERs
 - Most universities now using them for research
 - Repositories will be around for a long time
 - Library staff tend to curate (and add meta-data)
 - Licensing in place
 - Accessible to Google – can use customised search
- **BUT**
- Excludes good stuff on YouTube etc.
- Still no quick and easy way to inspect the resource.



Summary

- Discovery
 - Reputation/trust
 - Quality
 - Few Depositors
 - Google – to see relevance quickly
- Needs Portal
 - Current solutions
 - Sustainability

