Reflections on running an OER adoption workshop: Adapting and sharing the Open Education Network model

UKSG OER Event

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open.umn.edu/oen

Today’s discussion

01 Introducing the Open Education Network and the workshop model

02 Adapting and sharing the workshop

03 What we have learned from the Community

04 How you can get involved

Setting the scene

The Open Education Network (OEN)

- Founded in 2012
- Aim to “commit to working together to make open the default in higher education.”
- 1793 members from the US, Canada, Australia, Ireland and the UK
- Maintain the Open Textbook Library

The UK and Ireland OER Community of Practice

- Supported by the OEN
- Founded in 2025
- 100+ institutions represented on the mailing list
- Main areas of focus:
  - open textbook adoption, including Open Textbook UK & I collection
  - open textbook publishing
  - community engagement

Where we started from

Sheffield context

- One FTE, exploring OER, based in the Library
- Institutional OER policy since 2022, plus a University OER Steering Group
- Limited infrastructure
- Focus on adoption of open textbooks, although academics more interested in creation

Brunel context

- Small team exploring OER, based in the Library, with limited infrastructure
- Focus on adoption of open textbooks
- Institutional policy in progress
- Benefitted from the existing work and learning of the community in realising our ambitions

The Open Education Network workshop model

Introduction to OER adoption workshop by the Open Education Network CC BY 4.0 Inl

Starts and ends with engagement with open textbooks

Invitation to look at and review items in the Open Textbook Library

Highlights and discusses barriers to accessing education

Cost, Access, Inclusion, Attainment

Addresses misconceptions

Discusses quality, impact and availability of open educational resources

Offers solutions

Proposes the adoption and modification of open textbooks



Why might the model work for you?

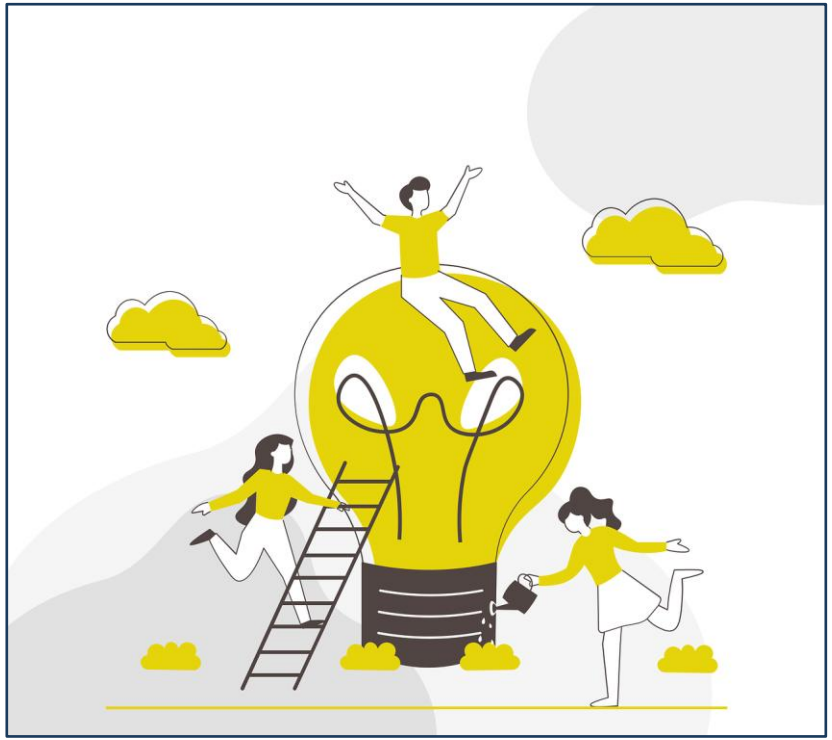


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The workshop may offer you a useful starting point:

- Tried and tested by the Open Education Network community
- Allows for the rapid development of a workshop programme
- Developed for open sharing - and adapting

OEN Resources page

Adapting the model for a UK context

To reflect differences between the North American and UK / Irish context we:

- Reframed the discussion on student affordability of learning materials
- Added local context and relevance
- Added research stories more relevant to the our HE context
- Peer review by library colleagues and academics
- Recently we have begun promoting the OTL UK & Ireland collection specifically



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Observations from the workshops

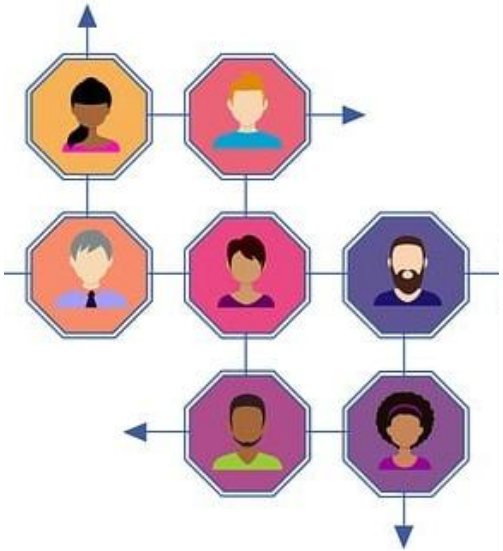


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- Academics were often unaware of some of the barriers students experienced in using commercial textbooks and of the textbook cost to libraries
- Participants shared the concerns raised in the workshop about the cost of education/Academics were worried about their own texts being unaffordable
- Availability of relevant content was an issue
- Editorial processes were questioned
- Engagement with open textbooks in the session is one way of addressing concerns about quality and availability of texts

What now?



There are some areas which need improvement:

- Tracking the relationship between workshop attendance and OER adoption
- Detailed analysis of attendees
- Reviewing the content of the slides
- Tailoring the content to different audiences
- Academic involvement in workshop delivery
- More flexible timing might allow for a better experience of activities
- Managing related discussions - i.e. publishing

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“What questions do you get, or do you anticipate getting, when talking about OER?”

Submit one question and one answer to the Padlet.

Sharing the model (1)

UK and Irish context

- Many HEIs are exploring the potential of OER, and typically they might focus on either OER adoption or publishing
- Librarians and others may work in isolation or lack confidence in developing an OER service
- Some teams have limited resource, capacity and time

The Community of Practice aims to provide support.

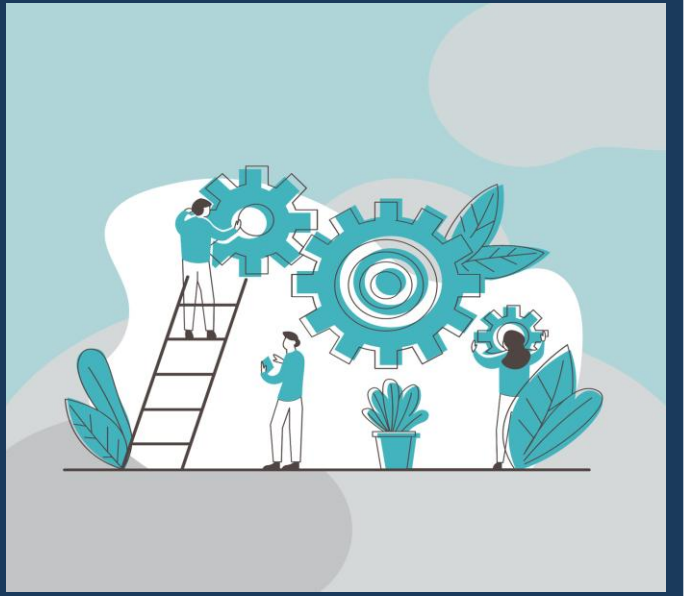


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Sharing the model (2)

Train-the-trainer workshops

- Offer a regular opportunity for any interested institutions to attend a free training session in delivering our workshop
- High engagement from the OER Community of Practice for the UK and Ireland
- Provides a set of slides for institutions to customise
- Provides a space for people to ask questions and hear from people who have run workshops

Community feedback on workshops

- 90 people attended
- 41 HEIs in UK and Ireland represented
- 70% of respondents said they would consider running a workshop
- 30% of respondents would consider delivering a workshop if they had further help, e.g. from a colleague or the Community



Sharing the model (3)

Follow up discussion workshops

- Aim is to gather feedback on experiences of running the workshop locally
- More casual discussion exploring OER progress and challenges
- Community participation, response and sharing
- Opportunity for community members to take a leading role

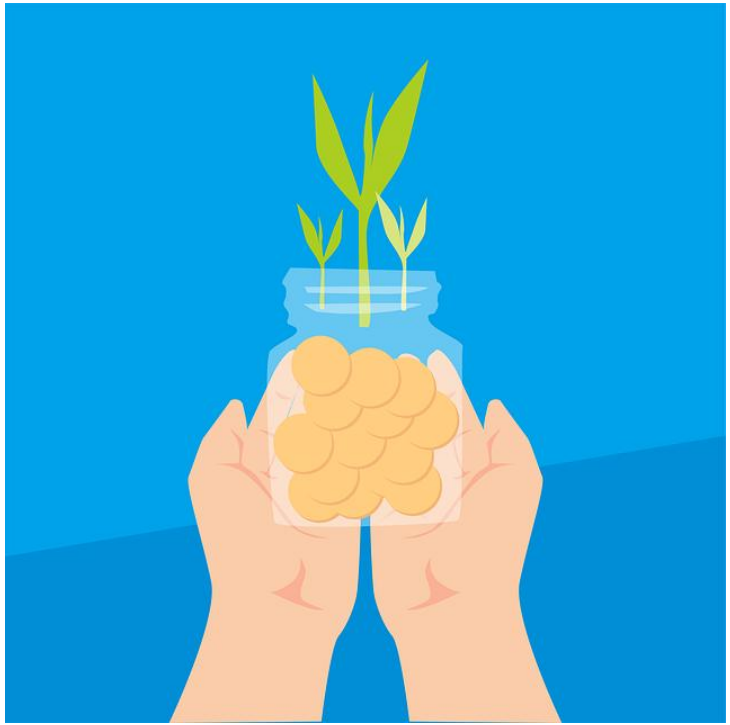


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What we learned from the community

- Record one of the workshops (with or without an audience!), share it widely, to extend the life and usefulness of the workshop
- Early on in workshops it's good to highlight the cost of providing learning materials - share some of the eye-watering costs of textbook provision with academics
- Including elements of the workshop in other workshops (e.g. around reading lists)
- Before running workshops, ensure you have a LibGuide or web page about OER so attendees can get further information
- There's a lot of good work happening in our community which we want to highlight
- As a result we have set up a blog on the Community of Practice website to share these stories

Get Involved

Join the listserv
Connect with open education practitioners across the region

Attend a workshop
Register your interest on our Events pages

Read our blog
Learn more about the activities of our community

Contribute to resources
Share open textbooks in use at your institution via the OER for Reading Lists page

sites.google.com/umn.edu/oer-community-uk-ireland · Contact: thee0017@umn.edu

Thank you for listening

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