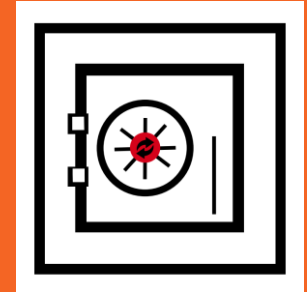


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# Open Educational Resources Escape Room



The what, the why, the how, and the 922871



# Sarah Coombs

Saxion University of Applied  
Science, The Netherlands

The love of the game

A varied past of hobbies only an only child  
could have

Children's party planner side hustle

Parents that sponsor

Belt and suspenders...and twine and duct  
tape. Have been known to forget the glue

A shameless introvert

In great need of an administrative assistant

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# Aisling Coyne

Open Scholarship Librarian,  
Technological University Dublin  
(TU Dublin)

Curious mind

Visual learner

I've quit more things than you've started

Childlike wonder

Procrastinating perfectionist

Shameful extrovert

Works like it's 1999

In dire need of an assistant personally and professionally

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# Katrine Sundsbø

Community Manager,  
DOAJ (Directory of Open  
Access Journals)

Creative mind and non-linear thinker

Want to make learning and connecting fun

Love to create things based on concepts I haven't tried

Introvert with extrovert tendencies

Constantly need to 'keep myself in line'

Prefer to have many things to do

In denial about needing an admin assistant

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## Background - What made us connect?

- Met at EARMA conference in 2022
- Instantly bonded over our excitement for gamification
- Started chatting every day
- Realised we had to create *something* together
- Working from Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway (UK)

922871 ideas later we've managed to make two ideas into actual games

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# OER Escape Room

## Why?

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**Why not!**

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## No, seriously. Why?

Wanted to combine our talents to create something amazing

Based on OA Escape Room popularity, asked to develop an OER Escape room for SURF

Pilot Saxion UAS librarians

Refined following second round at SURF

Run again for Open Educational Resources Acceleration Plan in NL

Launched at EARMA 2023

Still not on Figshare...looking for an Admin Assistants or someone with time on their hands!

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# OER Escape room - process outline

Began with assessing concepts and information to be incorporated.

Lots on online meetings.

Discussed the logical sequence of events including end results.

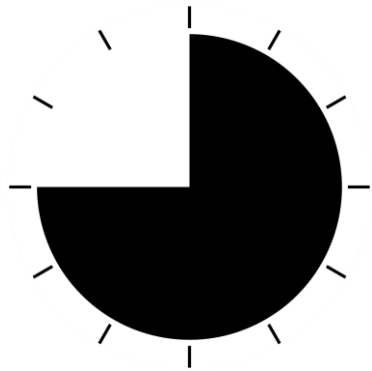
Discussed the possible means of leading from one clue to the other...puzzle? Missing info? Coding? Invisible ink?

Started working it out on paper and later in Pictorchart.

Piloted and changed things such as the numbering of the first clue, the code done backwards...

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# OER Escape room-game outline

Your program is a shambles.

You have no budget or additional resources, but you must innovate.

Your job is on the line.

You have 45 min to get it all in order.

GO!

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# **First rule of gamification:**

**You will never get it right the first time**

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# The things that went wrong

## Part 1: The pilot

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General confusion.

Numbering confusion.

Clue written backwards.

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# OER Escape room - feedback from pilot

*“ I really enjoyed playing the OER Escape Room. The game was well put together. Because many different parts of OER were covered, we as players complimented each other in our knowledge. It took some searching at times to gather clues, but there was a good balance between challenge and keeping some speed in playing. ”*

*“ Fun to do, lots of laughs, and this made it very easy to get into an interesting and open conversation at the end where the opportunities for OER lie. ”*

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# The things that went wrong

## Part 2: The launch



Language issues

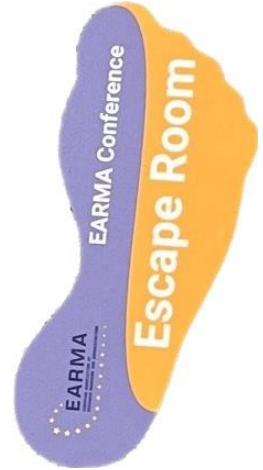
Sign up confusion

Participants don't get escape rooms

Organisations don't get escape rooms

People only want to play with their friends

*Working together?!*



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**“If at first you don’t succeed,  
try, try again”**





# OER Escape room - play

- People are drawn to the safe
- People can't keep their pens to themselves
- Started a lot of discussion about OER and copyright



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# OER Escape room - feedback

*“ Being an active researcher myself, I had my doubts that I would learn anything I didn’t already know. I could not have been more wrong!! ”*

*“ The session was genuinely fun, interactive and extremely informative. ”*

*“ The 60-minutes flew by (too quickly, we barely finished!), and I’ve used learnings from the workshop in my own role as Pre-Award Lead every week since! ”*

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# So, how do you

Put your  
creative boots  
thinking cap  
belt and suspenders  
elastic bands  
on?

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Ps. don't forget the glue

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# Thank you

Sarah Coombs

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*Bedankt!*

Aisling Coyne

aisling.coyne@tudublin.ie

*Go raibh maith agat!*

Katrine Sundsbø

katrine@doaj.org

*Tusen takk!*

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