



Librarians as Resource auditors in Digital Learning landscape: A case with UNESWA and its blended learning projects

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Changing Learning Landscape

- Traditional Learning Landscape slowly changing into Digital Learning
- Learners taking control of learning
- Independent Learning through broad variety of resources
- On-demand, Responsive and universal content
- Personalised, competency based, collaborative learning

What the current learners need

- At universities we prepare students for jobs which don't even exist and technologies which don't even exist or yet to be invented
- At universities we prepare students to solve problems which they don't even know what the problems are
- 21st century learning skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Communication
- Multi-dimensional learning aids to simulate and stimulate student thinking process
- Project based self directed learning environment
- Supplemented learning experience

Blended learning

- Blended learning is a model that combines online and face-to-face learning spaces and experiences
- Mixing or Combining instructional technology with traditional learning experience
- Preparing students for 21st century learning skills
- Possibility of combining multimedia learning resources
- Possibility of supplementing what traditional learning space cannot provide

UNESWA and Blended Learning

- Background
- Institutional Blended Learning strategy
- Creation of Blended learning teaching aids
- Library as a source of Resources
- Potential of OER to complement and replace traditional learning aids

Librarians as Resource Auditors

- New Type of skillset needed for instructors
- Analysis and evaluation of new information resource
- Multimedia based information resources
- Multi dimensional Information resources
- Collaborate with different expertise to arrive at resources which can play pivotal role in the learning sphere
- OER as a potential source of resources for the digital learning landscape

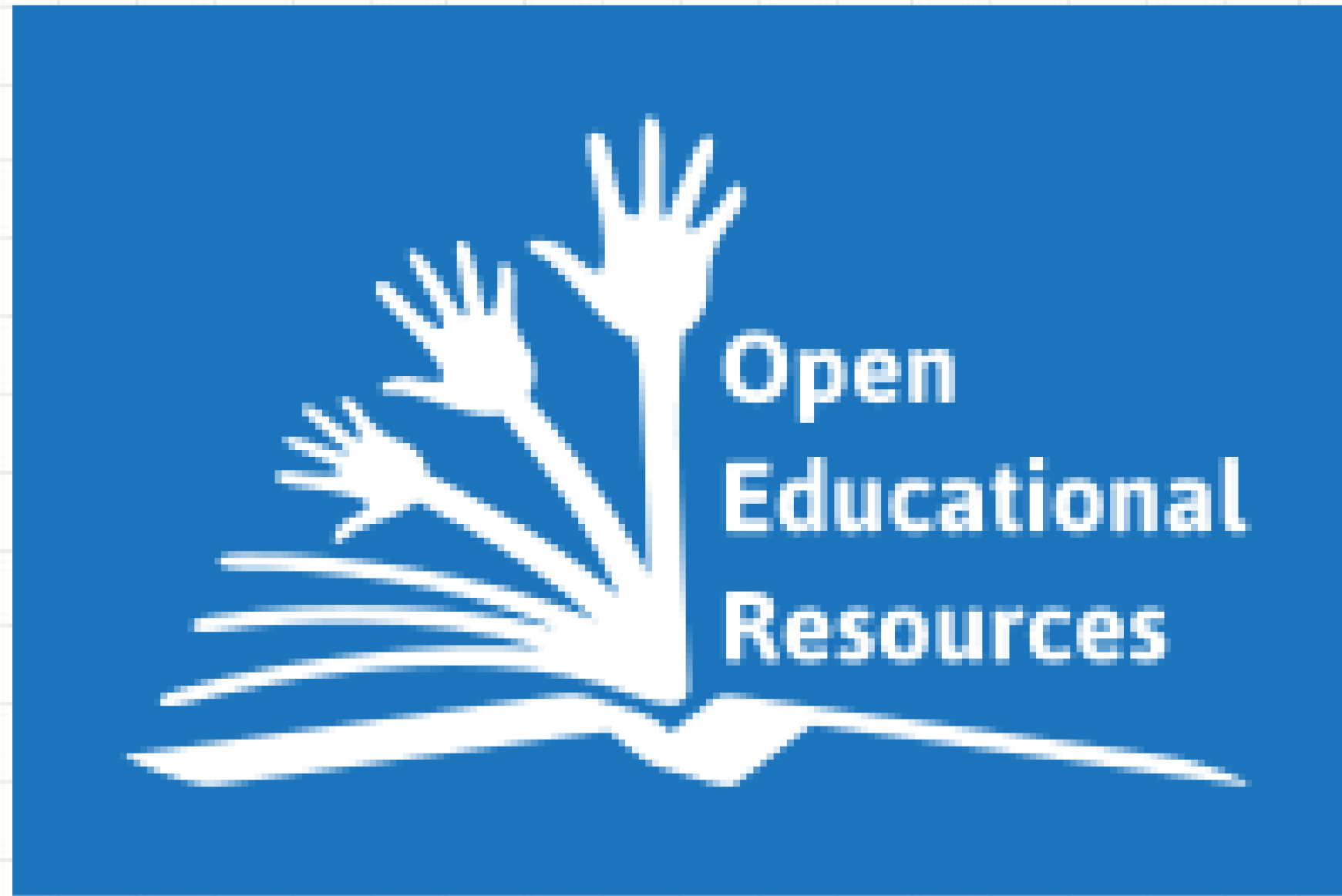
Open Movement

- Open Source
- Open Source Software
- Open Standards
- Open Access
- Open Content
- Open Course ware
- Open Education Open Educational Resources
- Open Data

Open Education

Open education is about sharing, reducing barriers and increasing access in education. It includes free and open access to platforms, tools and resources in education (such as learning materials, course materials, videos of lectures, assessment tools, research, study groups, textbooks, etc.). Open education seeks to create a world in which the desire to learn is fully met by the opportunity to do so, where everyone, everywhere is able to access affordable, educationally and culturally appropriate opportunities to gain whatever knowledge or training they desire.

<http://www.openeducationweek.org/what-is-open-education/>



Open Educational Resources...

Open Educational Resources (OER)

- *Digitised materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research*
- OER are high-quality, free and open educational materials that offer opportunities for people anywhere in the world to share, use and reuse.

Worldwide OER Initiatives

OER WORLD MAP  TAKE A TOUR

ACTIVITY  FIND ADD INFO LOG

Search the OER World Map



Tag  Award  Show more 



0 Entries per Country 1180

OER Resources

- OER Repositories
- Open Courseware
- OER Textbooks
- OER Search Engines
- OER E-Learning development kits

OER Gateway as Resource auditing platform

- Strategic decision to create a Single gateway where audited resources are indexed and displayed**
- Validated for authenticity and usefulness**
- One stop interface to find and download resources for their Blended Learning courses**
- Constantly updated list**
- Comprehensive gateway to OER resources**

UNESWA OER Gateway

www.library.uniswa.sz/oer

Open Educational Resource Gateway

HOME

OER REPOSITORIES

OPEN COURSEWARE

REFERENCE AND MULTIMEDIA

MISCELLANEOUS

OER Gateway

Open Access, Open Education and Open Learning has revolutionised the concept of Education. As a tribute to the number of selfless individuals who have given their time and expertise to the Open Access community, this gateway strives to collate all the efforts under one banner. In this gateway we have tried to assemble a number of electronic resources which will enhance your reading and research.

This is just an initial attempt and by no means the resources listed here are exhaustive. The main challenge is to keep the gateway upto date. This is not an individual's contribution but it is once again a community contribution. You are also part of this community. If you come across any OER related material you can send the link to me to the address on the right panel.

While every possible measure has been taken to make this initiative more fruitful, we constantly solícite your comments and observations to enhance this venture.

Latest News

[Project Gutenberg is now available through the OpenCourseware link](#)

Project Gutenberg which provides access to close to 42,000 classics is now available for download for your portable devices as well. It is also available as a CD ROM and in case you



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UNESWA OER Gateway – repositories



Open Educational Resource Gateway

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OER Repositories and Search Engines

[Academic Earth](#)

[OER Commons](#)

[OER Africa](#)

[OER Online Archive](#)

[UNESCO OER Platform](#)

[JORUM \(JISC UK\)](#)

[MERLOT \(Multimedia Educational Resource Learning and Online Teaching\)](#)

[Discover ED](#)

[National Learning Network](#)

[National Science Digital Library](#)

[Digital Library for Earth System Education](#)

[Open Science Resources](#)

[Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education \(ISKME\)](#)

UNESWA OER Gateway – Courseware



Open Courseware

[Commonwealth of Learning](#)

[Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth \(VUSSC\)](#)

[MIT Open Courseware](#)

[Open Courseware Consortium](#)

[Openstax CNX](#)

[Guide to Online Schools](#)

[OpenLearn](#)

[OpenLearnWare](#)

[OER Textbooks \(Flatworld Knowledge\)](#)

[OER Textbooks \(Collegeopentextbooks\)](#)

[Open Yale Courses](#)

[Middle East Technical University Open Courseware](#)

UNESWA OER Gateway – Multimedia



Multimedia Collection

[Slideshare](#)

[Ted Ed Lesson creator](#)

[International Children's Digital Library](#)

[Tumblebook E-Library](#)

[Youtube Educational Video collection](#)

[Lit2Go \(Audio Books\)](#)

[Books Should be Free \(Audio Books\)](#)

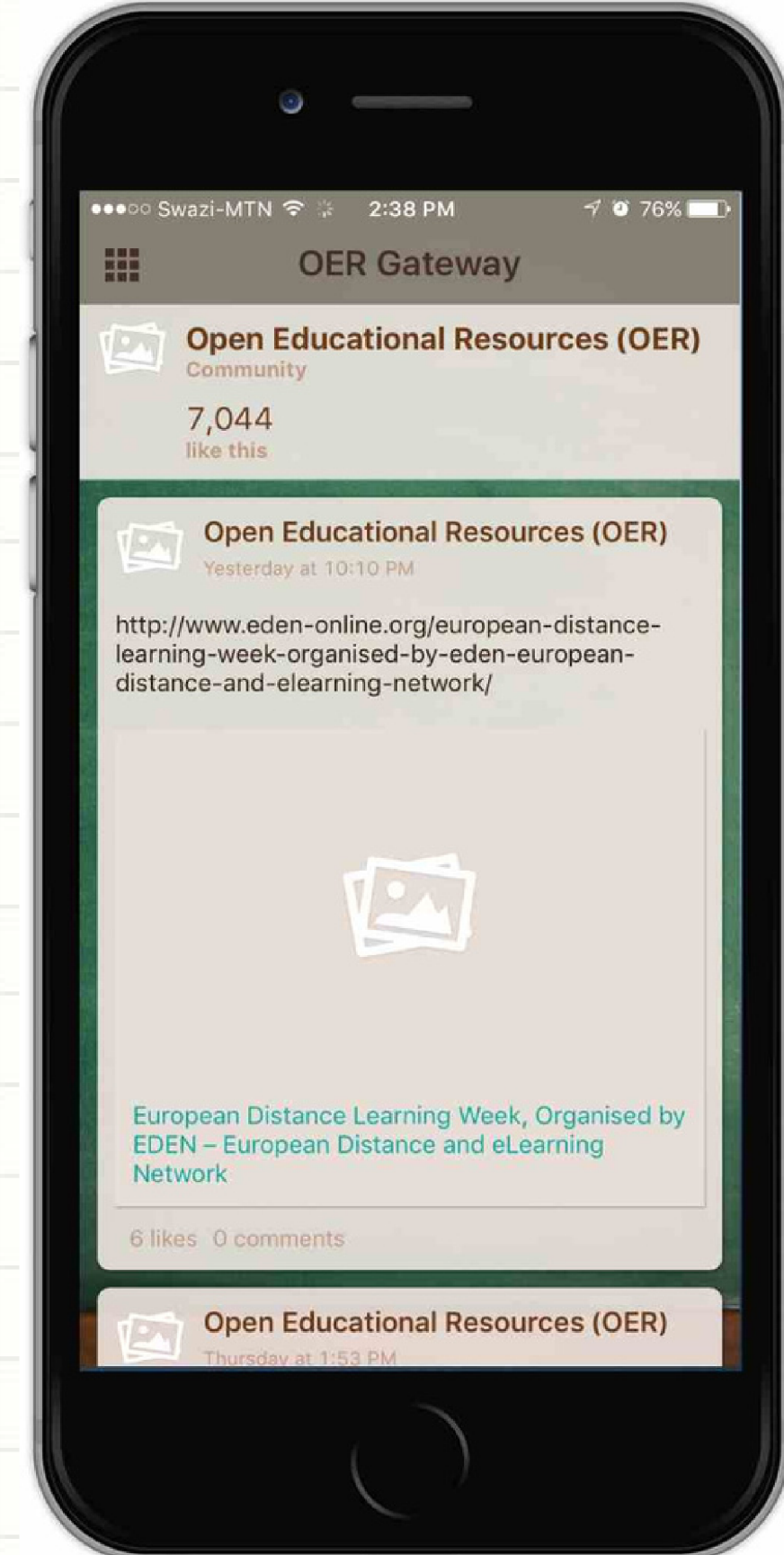
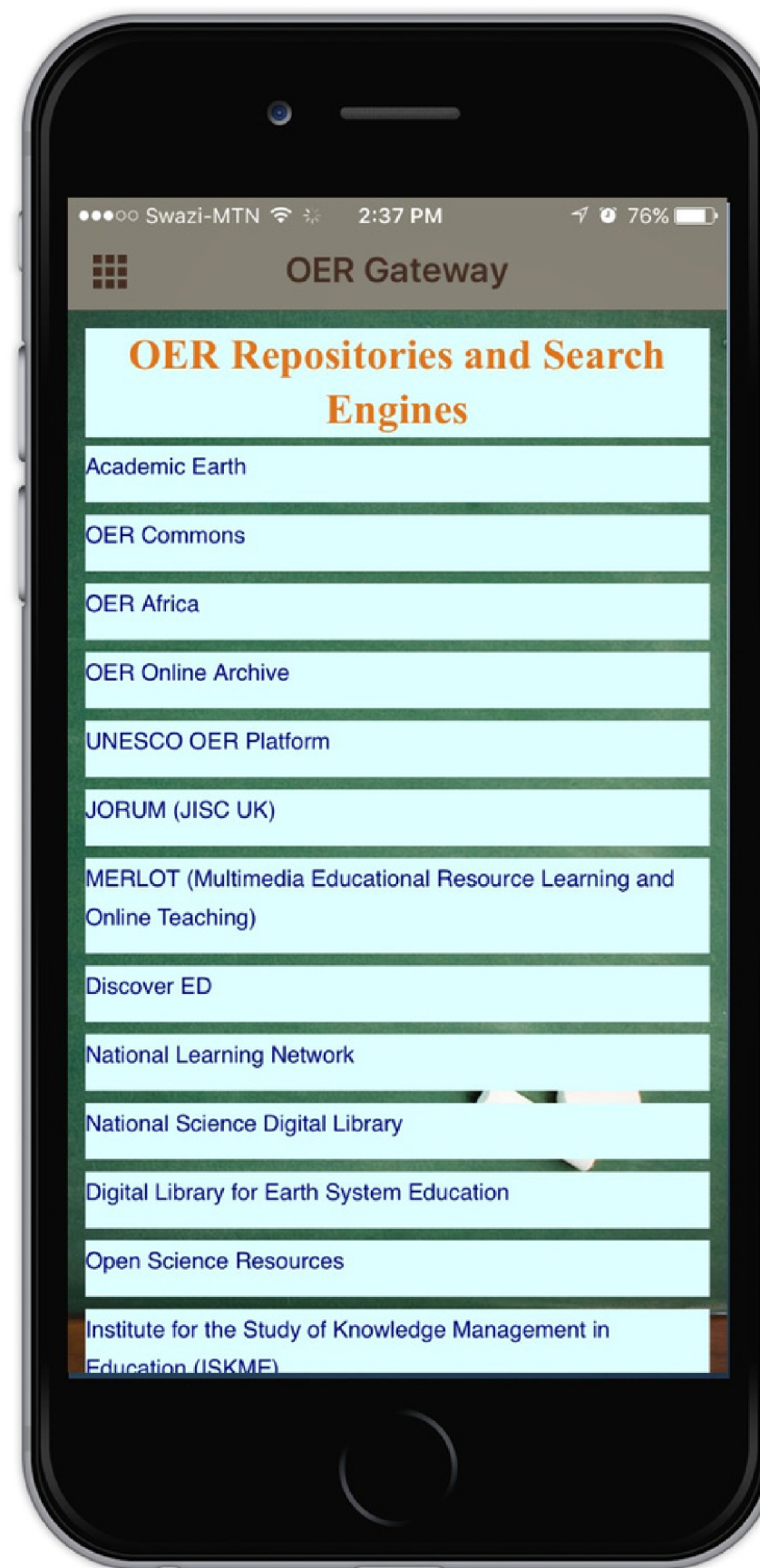
[Storynory \(Audio Books\)](#)

[LibriVox \(Audio Books\)](#)

Advantages and Limitations of the OER Gateway

- Links to all the OER through single access
 - Easy and Faceted access to all the Resources
 - Community driven so development was easy
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- Because of desktop interface mobility was restricted
 - The interface was device dependent so practical problems
 - Time critical updates and notifications were not able to be performed

Mobile interface to OER Gateway



Advantages of Mobile OER Gateway

- Push Notification as and when a new resource is added
- Connected to OER groups through Social Networking
- OER News updated periodically
- Location based resource service
- All the mobile compliant resources are identified and tagged

Challenges in the OER Gateway

- Its just a gateway, not a composite searchable interface
- Continuous updating of links and resources
- Research on new and upcoming resources
- SDI based alert system
- Portal based services

Lessons learnt

- Need for collaborative effort to advance academic excellence
- Librarians can play a central role in providing meaningful resources
- The more resources provide more meaningful material come out of the educators
- As technology advances we need to reinvent new ways of disseminating the information

Conclusion

- We are in the age of Big Data
- 90% of the World's Data has been created in the last few years
- The amount of new technical information is doubling every two years
- For a student starting a new technical education, Half of what they learned in the first year of study will be outdated by their 3rd year
- An immediate need to reinvent learning platforms using collaborative efforts to cater these needs
- The role of libraries and librarians have changed from that of traditional keepers of knowledge into Resource auditors where they are expected to collaborate with educators and designers to provide stimulating learning material.

Thank you