OpenER, a Dutch initiative on OER

Benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER) for Capacity Development

Online Educa Berlin 3 december 2008

Fred de Vries, with contributions from Robert Schuwer and Fred Mulder

Centre for Learning Sciences and Technologies
celstec.org

Outcomes (1)

- **16 courses** of 25 study hours each (= **1 EC**)
  - or > 16 courses (= 400 hours)
- a **user-friendly on-line delivery** system
- user-friendly on-line facilities for **selfassessment**
- substantial **marketing and PR** to create **awareness** on OER and the OUNL

Outcomes (2)

- opportunities for ***formal assessment and certification*** as a ***starting*** point for a Higher Education study

- knowledge on the effectiveness of ***open content delivery*** for ***stimulating participation*** in Higher Education

Lessons learned (1)

- For some users another language than the Dutch language is a barrier.

- Courses of 4 hours were considered too short to get a good idea of what it means to study a subject on this level of education.

- For courses that were fully web-based and did not offer the possibility to print out the course text. Users asked for a printed version.

- Errors in the courses were reported by the learners.

- Read aloud versions were hardly used. The main cause reported was the automatic generation of a read aloud version of a webpage (using Readspeaker) with errors in pronunciation.

Lessons learned (2)

- Change of attitude to open courses within OUNL
- Objectives for publishing open courses for faculties
    - The courses should give a good picture of the main subject areas in our faculty.
    - The courses should show how entertaining learning can be
    - The courses should also be attractive for our own students.

Lessons learned (3)

- Rely on quality awareness of authors
  - Authors are already used to making self study material
- Producing open courses should be a regular task at faculties
  - Higher delivery reliability
  - Not dependant on few enthusiastic people

Future strategy (1)

- Continuation with modest extensions… +

- OER is basis for development of National LLL Network Open Polytechnics (blended learning)

- Extra: Spinoza series: Hall-of-Fame of Dutch scientists (Spinoza Prize Winners) (launched 19 November)

- Moreover: in November a Taskforce OER proposed a new business model for the OUNL that includes a sustainable OER strategy
(last week approved by the Executive Board)
Different scenario's discussed.

Future strategy (2)

- Debate on free schoolbooks in secondary education to be converted in OER.
  - OUNL as advocate and expert in OER
  - Focus on reuse/rework/remix

Demo

On-line, always everywhere available

http://www.opener.ou.nl/

Thank you for your attention …

You are welcome in our stand for more explanation and demonstration

Centre for Learning Sciences and Technologies
celstec.org