

# Online Educa 2008

Workshop: Benefits of OER

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# OER - Quick Definition

Open Courseware, Textbooks

Wikipedia, YouTube, iTunes

Self-study, Syllabi, Readings

Content is not the most important aspect of OER,  
but processes and community

# Why? Rephrasing the question ...

Why should Institutions / Universities publish materials? Taxpayers pay, deserve access

Why Students? Don't need to ask, because students are already using OER and ahead of institutions

Why Lecturers / Teachers / Professors?  
Collaboration increases quality and lowers costs

The question has to be turned around, why not?

# Examples

University of the Western Cape:

- School of Public Health, OER led to potential international collaborations, access to expertise, ways to disseminate own expertise more broadly
- Rip Mix Learners: Great way to increase student engagement and motivation

United Nations University:

- OCW project published student papers, exposure of student research, publishers interested

# Recommendations

If you publish OER, don't use the NonCommercial licensing option, it prevents diffusion

Work with students, especially in resource poor regions, it's easier and more fun

Build OER into collaborations, OER is not the key – discipline specific collaboration is – but OER can support such collaboration

Support open standards that enable exchange