

# Workshop on Technologies for Open Textbooks 25-27 February, 2016

*Organised by*  
**Commonwealth of Learning, Canada**  
*Hosted by*  
**Odisha State Open University**  
**Venue: Hotel Swasti Premium, Bhubaneswar**

## Workshop Rational

The Commonwealth of Learning and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation supported the Caribbean Open Textbook initiative in 2014, and it has encouraged research into how Open Educational Resources (OER) might be used to enhance access by both educators and students to quality materials. In recent times there has been growing interest in the model applied in the Caribbean Open Textbook initiative, and how we might transform the traditional textbook to better suit the specific needs of teachers and learners, make it less static and more dynamic so that it can be adapted to support local challenges. While there are many guides to OER, how to build a platform to disseminate OER using free and open source technologies are missing. Therefore, COL has initiated the development of an *Open Textbook Manual*.

This workshop is designed to test the draft *Open Textbook Manual* recently developed to provide guidance on how one might build a platform for sharing OER. The manual and its activities will be trialled and feedback received from the participants. This feedback will be used to improve the manual before it is circulated widely.

## Workshop Aim

While the workshop aim is to elicit feedback on the usefulness and scope of the draft *Open Textbook Manual*, it will also attempt to provide skills to the participants to develop an OER Textbook platform for their institution.

## Workshop Outcomes

On completion of the workshop participants will be able to:

1. find, describe and store Open Educational Resources.
2. use existing web services (Gooru, OpenAuthor & Pressbooks) to develop their own OER Textbook platform with limited technical skills.
3. build a platform for open textbooks using existing open source technology solutions. (Drupal Content Management System, Canvas Learning Management System and others)
4. identify suitable systems and approaches from amongst alternative technologies
5. provide feedback on how the manual can be improved.

## Prerequisites

### Participants

In order to derive optimal benefit from the training participants should...

1. Have advanced ICT skills and ideally some technical background;
2. Be proficient in English as the medium of communication;
3. Have access to the curriculum statements for a subject they are involved in supporting;
4. Have access to a mobile device such as a laptop with wi-fi

### Venue

The workshop venue should provide:

1. Robust Wi-Fi connectivity for all participants
2. Presentation laptop
3. Data projector

## Workshop Schedule

Date & Time	Activity	Resources
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 – Theme: Setting Up</b>		
09h30 – 10h00	<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Expectations</b> Facilitator and participants have an opportunity to introduce themselves and express workshop expectations	Dr. Srikant Mohapatra Mr. Andrew Moore Invited Guests Participants
<b>10h00 – 10h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10h30 – 11h00	<b>Introducing the OER Textbook Platform Manual</b> Facilitator explains the purpose of the manual and how it has been designed to enable others to develop their own platforms based on capacity and resources.	Digital version of the OER Textbook Platform manual
11h00-12h00	<b>Open Education Resources: Basics</b> Provide an overview of OER, including open licensing and an opportunity to identify some OER for a subject.	COL interactive tutorials on OER at <a href="http://tell.colvee.org">http://tell.colvee.org</a>
12h00 – 13h00	<b>Components of an OER Textbook Platform</b> Participants consider the question “How does the OER Textbook platform differ from a traditional textbook?” Participants reflect on the required functionality of a typical platform and the necessary components: Repository of OER, metadata linked to the curriculum, a master set of sequenced OER, user interface that allows manipulation and enhancements of	Digital version of the OER Textbook Platform manual

	the master set and a distribution mechanism to share each version.	
<b>13h00-14h00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14h00-15h00	<b>Investigating Ready-mades Part I: Gooru</b> The participants have an opportunity to investigate the OER Maths Textbook that has been developed in Gooru for MoE Antigua & Barbuda.	Internet access <a href="http://www.gooru.org/">http://www.gooru.org/</a> Class code: 5F22C7Q
<b>15h00-15h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
15h30-16h30	<b>Investigating Ready-mades Part II: Gooru</b> The participants register on the Gooru platform and build a small textbook using the resources identified in the earlier OER session and a set of curriculum statements identified by the participants.	OER Textbook Platform Manual - Activity 1 Curriculum Statements Subject OER
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2016</b>		
09h00 – 09h15	<b>Welcome</b> Summary of Day 1	
09h15 – 10h00	<b>Investigating Ready-mades Part III: OER Commons</b> The participants have an opportunity to investigate the OER Maths Textbook that has been developed in OER Commons and have an opportunity to replicate the model using their own resources	OER Textbook Platform Manual - Activity 2a Curriculum Statements Subject OER <a href="https://www.oercommons.org/">https://www.oercommons.org/</a>
<b>10h00 – 10h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10h30 – 13h00	<b>Investigating Ready-mades Part IV: Pressbooks</b> The participants have an opportunity to investigate the OER Maths Textbook that has been developed in OER Commons and have an opportunity to replicate the model using their own resources	OER Textbook Platform Manual - Activity 2b Curriculum Statements Subject OER
<b>13h00-14h00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14h00-15h00	<b>Build Your Own Solution Part I: Drupal &amp; Canvas</b> The participants investigate the Drupal/Canvas combination platform developed for MoE Antigua & Barbuda.	<a href="http://www.caribbeanoer.org">http://www.caribbeanoer.org</a> & <a href="http://lms.caribbeanoer.org">http://lms.caribbeanoer.org</a>
<b>15h00 – 15h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	

15h30 – 16h30	<b>Build Your Own Solution Part II: Drupal CMS</b> The participants get an opportunity to upload their own resources and add additional metadata for their own subjects into the Drupal content management system.	OER Textbook Platform Manual – Activities 3 Curriculum Statements Subject OER
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2016</b>		
09h00 – 09h15	Welcome – Summary of Days 1&2	
09h15- 10h00	<b>Build Your Own Solution Part III: Canvas LMS</b> Participants get an opportunity to create a new master set of curriculum resources in the Canvas environment and use the LMS tools to manipulate the content.	OER Textbook Platform Manual – Activities 4 Curriculum Statements Subject OER
<b>10h00 – 10h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10h30 – 13h00	<b>Build Your Own Solution Part IV: Opigno CMS and LMS</b> This session looks at a recent development in the Drupal sphere. Opigno is both a CMS and LMS built on the Drupal platform. We will construct an OER Textbook platform using this technology.	OER Textbook Platform Manual – Activities 5 Curriculum Statements Subject OER
<b>13h00-14h00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14h00-15h30	<b>Build Your Own Solution Part VI: Dspace</b> Brief opportunity to work-out how the DSpace could be inserted into a Moodle environment.	Manual – Activities 6
15h30-16h00	<b>Workshop Evaluation and Feedback</b> Participants fill in the COL Workshop evaluation questionnaire and also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the manual and how it might be improved	COL Evaluation Questionnaire Focus group discussions
<b>16h00 – 16h30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
16h30	Thanks & Close	Dr. Srikant Mohapatra Mr Andrew Moore