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Discussion Questions for Organizations Commencing OER Projects

The following are guiding questions for organizations interested in incorporating Open Educational Resources (OER) into their programs or activities. These questions are applicable to OER projects across academic disciplines and levels.

1. What are going to be the educational or instructional outputs of the grant/project?

2. Who is developing those outputs and who owns copyright?

3. Is there any reason why we would not want to make the outputs shareable under a Creative Commons Attribution (BY) license http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/?

    a. If all outputs created for a grant or project can ONLY be used by/for the direct participants, that would be unfortunate since any other university or organization doing similar work would have to start from scratch.

4. Where are the outputs from the grant/project going to be housed?

    a. Resources with a Creative Commons license should be publicly available and not restricted behind a password-protected website.

5. In our activities, how can we promote existing free and open content such as open educational resources, open image collections, open access journals and open textbooks?

    a. Health OER from African academics: http://www.oerafrica.org/healthoer
    b. List of open content repositories, for images, video, audio, and instructional materials: http://open.umich.edu/share/use
    c. Directories of open access journals (e.g. http://www.doaj.org/ or http://www.plos.org/)
    d. Directory of open textbooks: (http://www.opentextbook.org/)
    e. Check out "Librarians without Borders" (http://lwb-online.org/)

6. Should we organize any training workshops with grant/project participants? Should those be in-person or conducted as webinars?

    a. OER and Copyright Policy Sensitization Workshop: Sensitization workshops introduce faculty and staff to the notion and underlying principles of OER as well as to the Creative Commons licensing framework. Policy review becomes integral to advocacy for OER, by allowing institutions to appreciate which of their policies, e.g., remuneration, promotion, intellectual property, quality assurance, etc., serve to hinder or support the use of OER.
    b. OER Production Workshops: These workshops will address learning content production, helping faculty acquire new pedagogical and information literacy skills in order to use, create, adapt, and share OER. The content production workshop also includes training in the dScribe process (http://open.umich.edu/dScribe), a structured approach to reviewing existing content in order to ensure that all copyrights are cleared, enabling the content to be released as OER. This process was developed at U-M and has been successfully adapted and localized for use at several African institutions.