OER in Africa

Bridging the divide: visions of education futures through technology

Going Global 2012

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Saide
South African Institute for Distance Education

OER Africa

Who we are

Saide
South African Institute for Distance Education

OER Africa

The OER Concept

- Educational resources that are freely available for use by educators and learners, without an accompanying need to pay royalties or licence fees.
- OER is *not* synonymous with online learning or e-learning;
- Within an African context, it is anticipated that many of the resources produced – while shareable in a digital format (both online and via offline formats such as CD-ROM) – will be printable.

HE Background

- African higher education institutions structurally under-funded for their core function.
- Corresponding paucity of institutional and individual capacity to teach in many domains of higher education.
- Too few learning resources and many of those available prohibitively expensive.

HE Background (2)

- Knowledge-driven global economy has led to recognition that effective higher education systems significantly contribute to national economic competitiveness.
- Hence global challenge to meet rising demand for enrolment.
- Demand for growth unmatched by equivalent increases in funding, nor by increased numbers of faculty to accommodate the greater teaching load generated.

HE Background (3)

- Increasing prevalence of ICTs as tools within the education spectrum has concentrated ownership of publishers, databases, and other key resources in the hands of the strongest universities, located almost exclusively in the developed world
- Whilst changing, in Africa, limited ICT infrastructure and costly bandwidth hinder access to up-to-date information and participation in inter-institutional, geographically dispersed collaborative activities.

Ward rounds at a Teaching Hospital

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Kamuzu College of Nursing

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OER Skills for Faculty

- Expertise in advocacy and promotion of OER as a vehicle for improving the quality of learning and teaching
- Programme, course, and materials design and development expertise,
- Higher level skills in information searching, selection, adaptation, and evaluation.
- Expertise in managing networks/consortia of people and institutions to work cooperatively
- Expertise in curating and sharing OER effectively.

A Vision for Leadership

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African Nobel Laureates
Madiba with Wangari Maathai

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