Report

Workshop on Open Educational Resources and Open Licensing Policies in the Indian Context

22 February 2013

Venue
Conference Hall No. 1
India International Centre
Max Muller Marg, Lodhi Estate
New Delhi 110003

Organized by
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia
and
Creative Commons

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For further information, contact:

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia
13/14, Sarv Priya Vihar
New Delhi 110016
http://www.cemca.org.in

Workshop presentations are available at:
http://www.slideshare.net/CEMCA/presentations

Workshop Photos are available at:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/84936186@N02/sets/

Workshop Report is available at:
http://www.cemca.org.in/resources/workshop-reports

Download the recommendations of the Workshop at:
http://www.cemca.org.in/ckfinder/userfiles/files/
Recommendations_OER_Open%20License_22%20feb%202013.pdf

CEMCA in an international organization established by the *Commonwealth of Learning*, Vancouver, Canada to promote the meaningful, relevant and appropriate use of ICTs to serve the educational and training needs of Commonwealth member states of Asia. CEMCA receives diplomatic privileges and immunities in India under section 3 of the United Nations (privileges and immunities) Act, 1947.
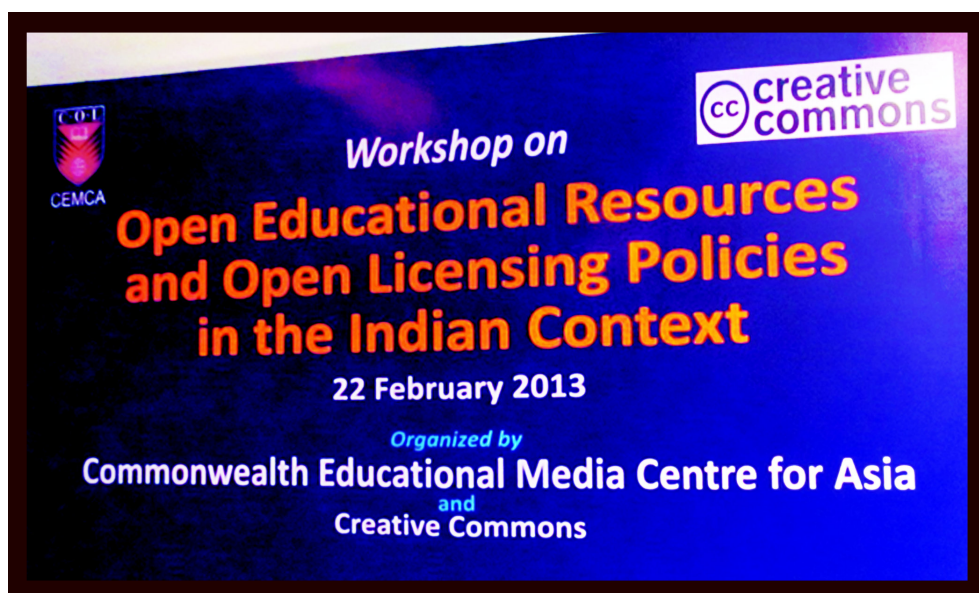
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Introduction

*I*n 2007 the National Knowledge Commission recommended development and dissemination of quality Open Educational Resources (OER) for success in Knowledge Economy. The OER movement has made significant advances in the last five years. The World OER Congress organized by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and UNESCO (Paris, June 2012) was attended by experts and representatives from 55 countries and led to a global declaration which identified the potential of OER to contribute to advancing the global human development objectives. OER is a vibrant movement in Asia irrespective of the type of economy or political system, as is evident from the studies reported in the recent publication on OER in Asia (COL and Wawasan OU, Jan 2013). India has emerged as a key player in OER with learning material for about 500 courses at UG level having become available online. India is also one of the two countries in Asia where OER is available in non-higher education and non-tertiary sectors as is evident from these studies.

A key aspect of OER paradigm is its emphasis on adoption of an open licensing framework. This is an important enabler for adaptation and re-use in diverse contexts and circumstances. Carefully formulated open licensing frameworks enable not just greater utilization but even larger production of new OERs. COL has adopted a

policy to render all its learning materials into OER while the Creative Commons has provided the most widely adopted open licensing framework in general and for OER in particular. A wide variety of CC licenses are available which protect the creators' rights while enabling re-use in different circumstances including non-commercial re-use.

India has a number of ongoing initiatives to produce very large quantities of learning materials in the digital format and to publish them. These efforts will be even greater contributor to national and global human development when harnessed in a framework of open licensing for sharing and re-use. With this as background, CEMCA and Creative Commons organized a one day workshop on Open Educational Resources and Open Licensing on 22nd February 2013 to gain a glimpse of myriad of initiatives in India in the broader education sector and to offer examples of how open licenses of the Creative Commons have been deployed to enhance sharing, re-use and adaptation of OERs; to identify key concerns and issues among leaders in India in adopting such a framework in their efforts; and to form a contact group in India who can serve as source of ideas and advice on matters that interface between educational publishing and open licensing.

Opening Session

The Workshop was marked with the welcome of dignitaries by Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA. The highlight of the inaugural session was the inaugural address of Mr. Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt of India who highlighted the philosophical foundations for open learning and significance of free availability of learning materials to all. Mr. Singh welcomed the initiative of CEMCA and emphasized, from a philosophical viewpoint, all educational resources should be available and accessible to all freely beyond national boundaries. As more and more resources are now available online as open educational resources, there is a need to have mechanisms to choose most suitable one to optimize learning time, he said. Mr. Singh, who is also the Govt of India nominee to the Advisory Council of CEMCA and focal point of COL in India, said that the deliberations of the meeting will be useful to develop a roadmap to assist institutions to use open educational resources effectively. Dr. P.

Prakash, Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University participated as Guest of honour and emphasized that improving access to quality learning resources as OER provides increase opportunities for the learners to learn from diverse learning materials. As such, this is something that should be looked upon by all

educational institutions to create and share to avoid duplication of efforts, he added. Ms. Catherine Casserly, CEO of Creative Commons presided over the inaugural session. While giving an overview of the importance of open licensing she emphasized the Creative Commons approach that reduces the 'permission request' process to produce educational materials. She said that the event organized in collaboration with CEMCA is a great networking opportunity for Creative Commons to expand its partner-base and looks forward to CEMCA and COL's leadership role in OER to promote the use of CC licenses in the region. Mr. R. Thyagarajan proposed vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

Session – 1

Key Advances in India in OER

The sub-theme of this session was 'Key advances in India in OER'

The speakers of this session were Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Prof. Kushal Sen, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, and Mr. Gautam John, Pratham Books.

Session started with the presentation by Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS, on 'OER for empowerment of Open Schools'. Dr. Jena informed that approximately 97 million children of age group 14 – 18 years are eligible now for Secondary and Senior Secondary education; 15% (12 Million) to be cater to by Open Schooling as targeted under XII Five Year Plan; present capacity about 04 Million (02 Million by NIOS + 02 Million by SOSs); about 08 million gap still to be filled-in by the Open Schooling System; and creating "Safety Net" for Drop Outs and Disadvantaged Groups.

While explaining OER he quoted the definition given by David Wiley (2007) - "Technology–enabled, open provision of educational resources for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for non-commercial purposes" and reiterated that we are strongly influenced by this while designing & deploying the OER for open schooling context.

Dr. Jena highlighted the strategies of perceiving the OER by the Open Schools viz. digitalized version of the learning materials; free availability; open to the user 4R (revise, reuse, remix & redistribute); adopt/adaptation by the users for the Course Work offered through on-line; and elements of assessment & certification.

Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College, Delhi University shared the efforts of her college in the field of OER. She also mentioned that in our country the need of "open" system has been accepted but there is confusion between OER, open access and open and distance learning. She also talked about copyrights and various licenses in OERs.

Prof. Uma Kanjilal in her presentation on "OER and Licensing Policies in the Indian context: IGNOU Perspective" explained in detail the mandate of the university as access to higher education to all segments of society, providing high quality, innovative and need-based programmes at different levels to all those who require them, reaching out to disadvantaged at affordable costs and promotion, coordination and regulation of the standards of education offered through open and distance learning in the country.

She narrated the present status of IGNOU's technology enhanced learning system and spoke at length about the journey to e-content development which started with digitization and repository building. Repository building includes self-instructional print material, video programmes available on YouTube with the metadata link. She informed the audience that the Board of Management of IGNOU has adopted OER Policy which uses the CC-BY-NC-SA license. She informed that IGNOU's FlexiLearn can be considered as the first MOOC portal that has course-wise registration and assessment with modular approach for earning course credits for a certificate, diploma or degree. Prof. Uma concluded with the thought that there is need of developing culture of sharing and re-using.

Next invited talk was delivered by Prof. Kushal Sen, IIT Delhi. In brief he narrated the joint efforts of IITs and IISc which resulted in the formation of National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). Prof. Sen while recalling the hardcore reality of staff shortage in engineering colleges emphasized on the creation of the real global village virtually and making the educational system learner-centric. By developing curriculum based video and web courses NPTEL aims to enhance the quality of engineering education in India. In phase-I, five branches of engineering (Civil, Computer, Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical) were addressed. The second phase of NPTEL is proposed with some enhancement and more courses. He further highlighted that as of now 1018 new courses in engineering/science and humanities are proposed.

Prof. Sen presented insights related to the statistical facts and figures of users registered, total number of courses uploaded, video courses, web courses, viewers, number of visits to the NPTEL website. Profile of the users classified as student, teacher and working professional and country wise user distribution was also discussed by Prof. Sen.

He also highlighted that NPTEL is adding some new features like text transcription of videos, mirror servers-NPTEL server and mobile format. All the material available on NPTEL website is licensed under Creative Commons license – CC-BY-NC-SA and all legal copyright details are also available on the site.

This was followed by the talk delivered by Mr. Gauam John, Pratham Books. He provided a brief picture of not-for-profit publisher, Pratham Books with a vision to provide 'a book in every child's hand'. He gave an insight into the fact that there are approx. 300 million children and 151 languages in India but there is a large gap for good quality affordable books in languages that our children read and learn. He brought up the fact that in UK there are 6 books for every child while on the other hand there is one book per 20 children in India. So taking this fact in consideration, Pratham Books came up with the aforesaid mission to reach 200 million children in India and to put 'a book in every child's hand'. Mr. Gautam also brought to the notice of everyone that Pratham Books has published over 245 original titles and over 1500 books & has printed 10.3 million books, over 10 million story cards and have a readership of nearly 25 million. He further informed that since 2008, Pratham Books is releasing CC license books available in every single technological medium - digital format, kindle, e-book format, android etc. translated in multiple Indian & foreign languages. He also discussed that OER gives the power to collaborate and removes barrier as CC has power to reach to the general public and to achieve a societal goal.

Session - 2

Case Studies on Open Licensing in OERs

Guest speaker of the second session was Ms. Catherine Casserly, CEO, Creative Commons who presented her views on "sharing education for a new era". Ms. Casserly explained the infrastructure they provide which consists of a set of copyright licenses and tools that create a balance inside the traditional "all rights reserved" setting that copyright law creates and gives everyone from individual creators to large companies and institutions a simple, standardized way to keep their copyright while allowing certain uses of their work - a "some rights reserved"

approach to copyright - which makes their creative, educational, and scientific content instantly more compatible with the full potential of the Internet and be made available to the general public.

She also informed that Creative Commons also works to minimize legal, technical, and social barriers to sharing and reuse of educational materials, with dedicated projects in this field. All over the world, from Argentina to Finland, people and projects are using CC licenses for education. Case studies of some of the organizations, companies, and institutions using CC licenses to share their materials with the world viz. MIT OpenCourseWare, Khan Academy, CK-12 Foundation, OER Africa and Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU) were also discussed by Dr. Casserly. It was informed by her that Commonwealth of Learning released its own materials under the most feasible open licenses i.e. Creative Commons CC-BY-SA license. She elucidated in brief that there are 2653 CC licensed journals in Directory of Open Access journals, PLOS publishes 50,000 CC-BY open access articles per year and BioMed Central publishes 100,000 CC-BY open access articles per year. The CC Affiliate Network consists of 100+ affiliates working in over 70 jurisdictions.

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Session - 3

Creative Commons Licensing

A joint presentation was given by Ms. Jessica Coates and Ms. Jane Hornibrook. They specified the license elements viz. Attribution (credit the author), Non-Commercial (no commercial use), No Derivative works (no remixing) and Share Alike (remix only if you let others remix). They further explained the method of choosing the license among different kinds of creative commons license. Ms. Jane and Ms. Jessica also highlighted some of the best known users of Creative Commons licenses- Al Jazeera, Flickr, Google, Wikipedia, etc.

It was followed by a group discussion to clarify common doubts and misconception about open licensing. Dr. Mishra facilitated the discussion by presenting specific scenarios and Ms. Jessica Coates and Jane Hornibrooks of Creative Commons team provided answers to different legal questions.

Concluding Session

During the concluding session, the participants discussed in plenary a set of recommendations for the Government, for the educational institutions and for

teachers/developers of educational materials. The workshop ended with thanks to all the participants, resource persons, and the organizers.

Recommendations

Noting the contemporary developments in education, including the World OER Congress organized by the Commonwealth of Learning and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization that released the 2012 OER Paris Declaration;

Recognizing the need for access to quality teaching, learning and research materials in Indian languages, in educational institutions at all levels;

Noting that 'online access' and download provisions through the web is not equivalent to 'Open Access';

Realizing that use of explicit open licenses is essential for reuse, remix, revise and redistribute educational materials; and

Understanding that the open license options of Creative Commons provide a legitimate option for creators/authors of knowledge resources within the framework of the exiting Copyright laws;

The participants of the workshop on "Open Educational Resources and Open Licensing Policies in the Indian Context" held on 22nd February 2013 at the India International Centre, New Delhi after detailed deliberations recommend the following for promotion and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to improve access to quality education.

For the Government:

1. *Release* all Government published materials under an explicit and declared open license;

2. *Digitize* all cultural resources available in India and make them available as knowledge commons through online open repositories;

3. *Include* a policy on sharing all research and teaching materials using a suitable open license whenever "public funds" are used;

4. *Provide* increased support for creation of OERs, including in all Indian languages, and all learning materials created within the NMEICT and ICT@Schools project be made available as Open Educational Resources (OER) with explicit open license;

5. *Recommend* the use of open formats and open standards in the technologies used for development and distribution of teaching and learning materials in educational institutions;

6. *Recognize* creation of OER by faculty as a scholarly activity as that of writing research papers in peer-reviewed journals;

For Educational Institutions:

1. *Adopt* institutional policies on 'Open Educational Resources' and 'Open Access';

2. *Develop* capacities of teachers and educational administrators to appreciate, create, and use high quality OER;

3. *Use* open formats and open standards for creation and distribution of teaching, learning and research materials;

4. *Develop* institutional open repositories for sharing of teaching, learning and research materials;

5. *Network* with other educational institutions to avoid duplication of efforts;

6. *Encourage* and support research and case studies on the development and use of OER;

7. *Recognize* and reward creation of OER by faculty;

For Individual Teachers:

1. *Take* steps to understand the concept and practices of OER and open licenses;

2. *Use* open formats and open standards for creation of teaching, learning and research materials;

3. *Participate* in the free culture movement by openly licensing and sharing teaching, learning and research materials produced as an individual and in group;

4. *Share* teaching, learning and research materials produced using an appropriate open licenses;

5. *Promote* OER in all possible opportunities and engage in research and development of OER;

6. *Adopt* ethical practice for the use of OER; and

7. *Encourage* students to use OER appropriately for learning.

Workshop Agenda

0900-0930	**Participants arrive, registration**
0930-1030	**Opening Session**
	• Welcome of Guests: Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA • Presidential Remarks: Ms. Catherine Casserly, CEO, Creative Commons • Inaugural Address: Mr. A.K. Singh, Jt. Secretary, MRHD, GoI • Guest of Honour: Dr. P. Prakash, Vice Chancellor, Dr. BRAOU • Vote of Thanks: Mr. R. Thyagarajan, Head (Admin & Fin), CEMCA
1045-1200	**Session 1: Key advances in India in OER**
	Speakers: • Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling • Dr. Savithri Singh, Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College • Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Indira Gandhi National Open University • Prof. Kushal Sen, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi • Mr. Gautam John, Pratham Books
1205-1300	**Session 2: Case studies on Open Licensing in OERs**
	• Catherine Casserly
1300-1415	**Lunch**
1415-1500	**Session 3: Creative Commons Licensing**
	• Jessica Coates and Jane Hornibrook
1515-1600 India	Group discussions on the advantages and implications of such licenses for reducing the costs and increasing quality in HE in
1600-1630	Presentation by Groups and a statement on looking forward
1630-1645	**Closing Remarks on behalf of organizers**
	Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Director, CEMCA

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name, Designation and Affiliation	E-mail ID
	CREATIVE COMMONS TEAM	
1	Ms. Catherine Casserly CEO, Creative Commons, USA	Cathy[at]creativecommons[dot]org
2	Ms. Jessica Coates, Global Network Manager Creative Commons	Jessica[at]creativecommons[dot]org
3	Ms. Jane Hornibrook Regional Coordinator Asia-Pacific Creative Commons	Jane[at]creativecommons[dot]org
	INVITEES FROM LOCAL INSTITUTIONS	
4	Dr. N.T. Yaduraju Knowledge Sharing & InnovationI CRISAT, Patancheru Andhra Pradesh -502324	N[dot]Yaduraju[at]cigar[dot]org
5	Dr. Shishir Kumar Jha Associate Professor Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Room: M110 Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management Powai Mumbai- 400076	Skjha[at]iitb[dot]ac[dot]in
6	Dr. P. Prakash Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University Prof.G.Ram Reddy Marg Road No:46-Jubilee Hills Hyderabad -500033 Andhra Pradesh	Vc[at]braou[dot]ac[dot]in
7	Ms. Ranjani Ranganathan IT for Change# 393 17th Main Road35th Cross Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block Bangalore Karnataka - 560041	Sriranjani[at]itforchange[dot]net

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8	Mr. Gautam John Pratham Books House No. 621, Second Floor 5th Main, OMBR Layout Banaswadi Bangalore - 560043 Karnataka	Gautam[at]prathambooks[dot]org
9	Mr. Pranav Curumsey Wikimedia Board Member	Curumsey[at]gmail[dot]com
10	Prof. Kushal Sen Professor Department of Textile Technology Indian Institute of Technology Hauz Khas New Delhi-110016	Kushal[at]textile[dot]iitd[dot] ernet[dot]in
11	Prof. Uma Kanjilal Coordinator, e Gyankosh Professor Library and Information Science Indira Gandhi National Open University Maidan Garhi New Delhi-110068	Ukanjilal[at]ignou[dot]ac[dot]in
12	Dr. Savithri Singh Principal, Acharya Narendra Dev College (ANDC) Govindpuri, Kalkaji New Delhi-110019	Principalandc[at]gmail[dot]com
13	Dr. S. S. Jena Chairman National Institute of Open Schooling A-24/25, Institutional Area Sector- 62 Noida- 201309 U. P.	Cm[at]nios[dot]ac[dot]in
14	Prof. Chandan Mukherjee Dean, Ambedkar University Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate Delhi 110006	Chandan[at]aud[dot]ac[dot]in
15	Dr. H. C. Pokhriyal School of Open Learning	Hcp[at]sol[dot]du[dot]ac[dot]in

	Campus of Open Learning 5 Cavalry Lane, University of Delhi Delhi – 110007	
16	Dr. Ramesh Sharma Regional Director Defence Unit, Indira Gandhi National Open University New Delhi-110068	Rcsharma[at]ignou[dot]ac[dot]in
17	Dr. Anshu Miglani IUC, Indira Gandhi National Open University Maidan Garhi New Delhi-110068	anshu[dot]miglani[at]ignou[dot]ac[dot]in
18	Dr. Nisha Singh IUC Indira Gandhi National Open University Maidan Garhi New Delhi-110068	Drnisha[at]ignou[dot]ac[dot]in
19	Dr. Rameshwar Singh Project Director Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture KAB-I, Pusa campus New Delhi- 110012	Pddkma[at]icar[dot]org[dot]in
20	Mr. Phet Sayo International Development Research Centre Asia Regional Office 208, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003	Psayo[at]idrc[dot]org[dot]in; phet.sayo[at]gmail[dot]com
21	Dr. R. Satyanarayana STRIDE Indira Gandhi National Open University Maidan Garhi New Delhi-110068	Rsatyanarayana[at]ignou[dot]ac[dot]in
22	Mr. Karan Kumar Programme Manager Central Square Foundation 301, Golf Apartments, Near Sujan Singh Park, New Delhi	Karan[at]centralsquarefoundation[dot]org

23	Dr. Sarita KumarDelhi University	Sarita[dot]sanjay90[at]gmail[dot]com
24	Dr. HimanshuScientist, ICAR	Himanshu[at]icar[dot]org[dot]in
25	Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi	Rcgaur[at]mail[dot]jnu[dot]ac[dot]in
26	Prof. Kannan Moudgalya IIT, Mumbai	Kannan[at]iitb[dot]ac[dot]in
27	Dr. Indu Kumar CIET, NCERT New Delhi	
	MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT	
28	Mr. Anant Kumar Singh Joint Secretary Ministry of Human Resource Development Distance learning Division Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001	anant[dot]edu[at]nic[dot]in
	CEMCA STAFF	
29	Dr. Sanjaya Mishra Director	Smishra[at]col[dot]org
30	Ms. D Rukmini Vemraju Programme Officer	Rvemraju[at]col[dot]org
31	Dr. Nutan Bharati Programme Officer	Nbharati[at]col[dot]org
32	Ms. Rajeswari Namagiri (Intern, CEMCA) Programme Coordinator Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Nehru Foundation for Development Thaltej Tekra Ahmedabad - 380 054, Gujarat	rajeswari[dot]namagiri[at]ceeindia[dot]org
33	Ms. Deepali Tyagi Project Associate	Deepalityagiedu[at]gmail[dot]com
34	Mr. R. Thyagarajan Head, Admn. & Finance	Rthyagarajan[at]col[dot]org