

'The Open Education Revolution: Sharing Nicely'

Delia Browne

Historically educators access to educational resources was limited and such educational resources were costly to create and disseminate.

The Internet now provides access to a vast and expanding pool of educational resources and Web 2.0 and 3.0 technologies greatly facilitate the abilities of educators and students to create and modify educational resource and to share these with world using the internet.

The goal of the OER movement is to respond to the needs of educators and students for open adaptable resources and emphasises the transformative possibilities of digitally created and distributed resources. In a nutshell OER is about creating repositories of material which are free to:

- Access
- Use
- Modify
- Share

The movement in Australia is better described as free for education. This is where material is made available to access and copy but not necessarily to modify and share with the entire world. That said, there is a groundswell of Free for Education and OER activity occurring and growing in Australia. But there are some barriers that need to overcome before we can start creating material.

Delia will briefly provide an overview of the beginnings and the global spread of OER and showcase some great Free For Education and OER initiatives. She will examine the current challenges of OER as well as some of the benefits of OER and identify immediate practical pathways to overcome these challenges.