Open Educational Resources

What are OERs

- These are free digital resources that can be used to support learning

What is 'Free'

- Richard Stallman - Four Freedoms
  - Freedom to run / read
  - Freedom to study (access to the source)
  - Freedom to redistribute (sharing)
  - Freedom to improv (modifying)

Types of OERs

- OERs vary according to license types:
  - GNU Free Documentation License
  - Creative Commons
  - David Wiley's …

Conditions

- From Creative Commons…
  - Attribution
  - Non-Commercial
  - No-Derivatives
  - Share-Alike

Examples

- MIT OpenCourseWare and the Open Courseware Consortium
- Open University
- WikiEducator
- And many many more…

Providing Access

- Institutional repositories - OAI, Dspace, the D2L repository

- Online storage sites - Flickr, YouTube, Internet Archive, OurMedia

- Wiki or other content creation sites (eg. Rice Connexions)

Sustainability

- Institutional Mandate (MIT)
- Government Funding (NSF, Eric)
- Volunteer Community
- Contracted (PPP)
- Foundation Support (Hewlett)
- Corporate (Nikon 'how-to' videos)

What I'd Like to See

- Temptation to use LMS to create a cash cow of learner contents
- Would much rather see LMSs openly share with each other
- What is needed: APIs and harvesting