

### **Open Educational Resources in Asia**

Ishan Abeywardena and Gajaraj Dhanarajan

18th April 2012 **OER Symposium** Open University of Hong Kong

## Acknowledgement



This research project is funded through the Grant (# 102791) generously made by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada through an umbrella study on Openness and Quality in Asian Distance Education.







## **Talking Points**



- Overview of the OERAsia survey
- Asia and Digital Resources
- **OER** and the Current Situation
- Are Institutions Ready for OER?
- Recommendations
- Acknowledgments



## The OERAsia Survey



the people's university

- Aimed to identify the current state of play in the Asian Region with respect to OER practice.
- The survey mainly concentrated on, but not limited to, the current situation in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Philippines, Japan, China, Hong Kong, South Korea.

Duration: 27 months



## Scope of the Survey



the people's university

- Learning Content: Full courses, courseware, content modules, learning objects, collections and journals.
- Tools: Software to support the development, use, re-use and delivery of learning content including searching and organization of content, content and learning management systems, content development tools and online learning communities.
- Implementation Resources: Intellectual property licenses to promote open publishing of materials, design principles of best practice and localization of content.

## **Objectives**



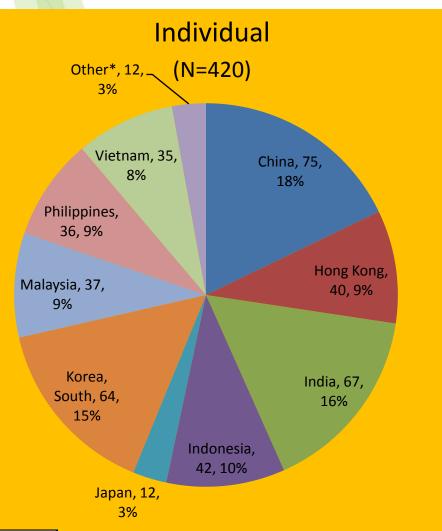
- To determine the demand for OER;
- To establish the regional capabilities to develop and/or use OER;
- To determine, list and describe the range of OER activities in the region;
- To list and describe the methods adopted for the creation of OERs;
- To identify the policy, legal and technological issues relating to the use of OERs;
- To identify / determine requirements of quality and their relevance in the OER environment;
- To undertake and economic analysis of the OER development and use;

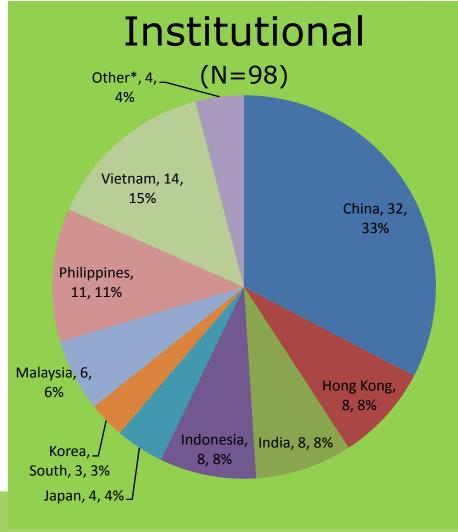


## Survey Response



the people's university







# Respondent Profile



the	peop	le's	university
-----	------	------	------------

			InstitutionStatus		
Partio	cipant Title	Public	Private not-for- profit	Private for- profit	Total
	Prof.	20	2	3	25
		80.00%	8.00%	12.00%	100.00%
	Dr.	77	15	10	102
		75.50%	14.70%	9.80%	100.00%
	Mr.	168	32	22	222
		75.70%	14.40%	9.90%	100.00%
	Ms.	47	14	10	71
		66.20%	19.70%	14.10%	100.00%
	Total	312	63	45	420
<b>a</b> •		74.30%	15.00%	10.70%	100.00%

# Teaching Profile



	Levels of Teaching		
Participant Title	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	High School
Prof.	14	15	-
Dr.	76	63	-
Mr.	132	46	19
Ms.	51	19	4
Total	273	143	23

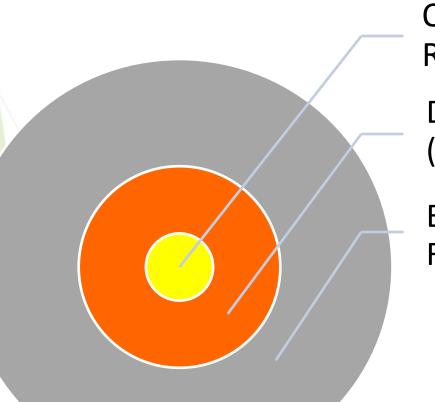
Flexible Affordable Accessible



## Digital Resources viz. OER



the people's university



Open Educational Resources (OER)

Digital Resources (DR)

Educational Resources (ER)

Flexible •

Affordable

Accessible



# Digital Resources Definition



the people's university

Our definition of digital resources is intentionally broad. Digital resources...

- may include audio, photos, maps, text, manuscripts, graphs, slides, charts, video, curricular support materials, or primary source materials.
- •may be either your own or others' online resources.
- •may be from library and museum collections.
- •may be from your own personal collection.
- •may be material you, colleagues, or others have made available in an online format.





	Digital Resource	Use	N
1	Images or visual materials (drawings, photographs, art, posters, etc.)		400
2	Digital film or video	50/50	395
3	Online or digitized documents (including translations)		398
4	News or other media sources and archives	50/50	393
5	Online reference resources (e.g., dictionaries)		396
6	Digital readers (e.g. Adobe Acrobat reader)		395



Use



the people's university

		the people's un	liversity
	Digital Resource	Use	N
1	Maps	×	395
2	Simulations or animations	×	391
3	Audio materials (speeches, interviews, music, oral histories, etc.)	×	395
4	Digital facsimiles of ancient or historical manuscripts	×	394
5	Government documents in digital format	×	393
6	Data archives (numeric databases; e.g., census data)	×	393
7	Personal online diaries (e.g., blogs)	×	392
8	Online class discussions (including archived discussions)	×	391
9	Curricular materials and websites that are created by other faculty and/or other institutions (e.g., MIT OpenCourseWare, World Lecture Hall, Merlot)	×	398
10	Coursepacks	×	388
11	E-Book readers (e.g. Kindle)	×	368

#### Sources



the people's university

١.		the people's university		
		Digital Resource	Use	N
	1	Search engines/directories (e.g., Google, Yahoo)		388
	2	My own personal collection of digital materials		389
	3	Public (free) online image databases		356
	4	Commercial image databases (e.g., Saskia, AMICO)	×	385
	5	Campus image databases from my own institution (e.g., departmental digital slide library)	×	387
	6	"Portals" that provide links or URL's relevant to particular disciplinary topics	×	391
	7	Online exhibits (e.g., from museums)	×	383
	8	Library collections (digital)	×	396
	9	Online journals (e.g., JSTOR)	50/50	392
	10	Media sites (e.g., NPR, New York Times, CNN, PBS)	×	383



#### Support



- Finding digital resources.
- Assessing the credibility of digital resources.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of resources for my teaching goals.
- Interpreting copyright laws and/or securing copyright permission.
- Importing resources into a course website or a database.
- Learning how to use a learning management system (e.g., Moodle, Sakai').
- Integrating resources into a learning management system (e.g. Moodle, Sakai').
- Digitizing existing resources.
- Gathering, organizing, and maintaining digital materials.
- Training students to find or evaluate digital resources.
- Obtaining or setting up technical infrastructure (servers, computers, smart classrooms, etc.).



Why?



		1-1
	Reason	Agreement %
1	Provide students a context for a topic.	96.42
2	It improves my students learning.	94.06
3	Get students excited about a topic.	93.38
4	Let students know the most up-to-date (or most current) development of the subject	92.27
5	Integrate primary source material into the course.	90.18
6	It allows my students to be more creative.	88.86
7	It provides access to resources that we don't have at our college.	85.23
8	It allows me to do things in the classroom that I could never do otherwise.	83.64
9	Integrate my research interests into my course.	83.46
10	It is more convenient for my students and their schedules.	83.03
11	Because I like or feel very comfortable with the new technologies.	78.7
12	Teach information literacy (i.e., evaluating the online materials themselves).	77.84

Why?



	the	people's university
	Reason	Agreement %
13	It saves me time.	76.62
14	Teach critical thinking skills.	76.03
15	Because I enjoy having my teaching practices and course materials available to anyone in the world who would like to use them.	72.68
16	Provide students with both good and bad examples of different kinds of scholarship.	72.49
17	It allows me to stay up-to-date with my colleagues.	71.61
18	Because my students expect or ask for more technology.	71.32
19	It creates a sense of community for students enrolled in my course.	69.53
20	Provide students a preview of the course before they register.	68.67
21	Because the administration (deans, chairs, provost) encourages me to use digital resources more.	53.65
22	It may help me get promoted or get tenure.	35.77

#### Barriers (50/50)



- Available software is unsuitable for viewing/displaying digital images and integrating audio or video into my course.
- My students don't have reliable access to computers.
- My students don't have a high-speed connection.





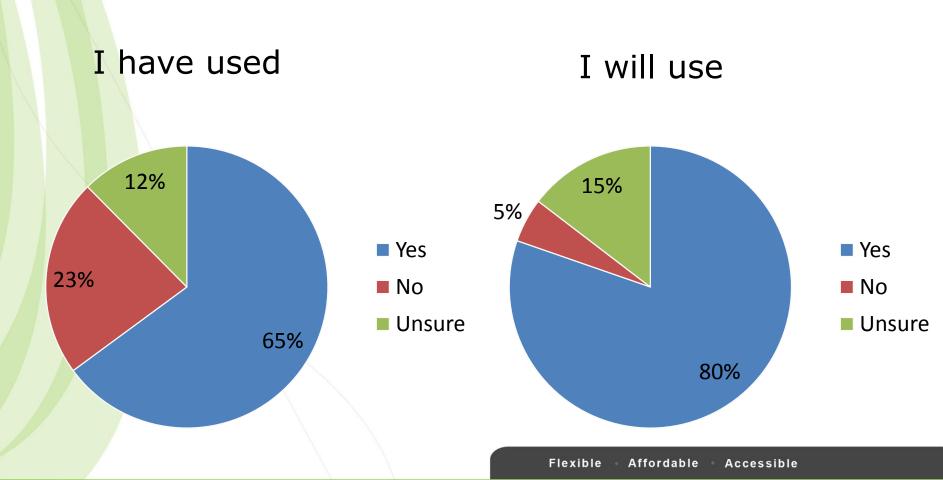
Open Educational Resources (OER) are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute.

Flexible Affordable Accessible



# OER Academic Use



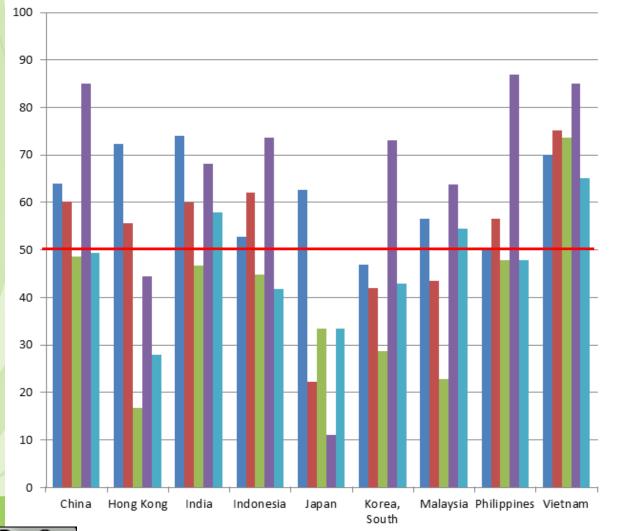




# OER Sources



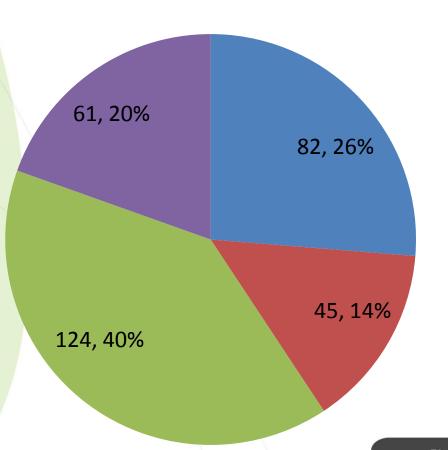




- Produced by yourself
- Produced within the institution
- Downloaded from OER repository (such as MIT OCW, MERLOT, OpenLearn, Connexions, etc.)
- Freely downloaded from the internet
- Coming from an established cooperation with other educational institutions

# OER Production





- We currently do not produce open educational content
- As full courses / programmes
- As parts of courses / programmes
- As learning objects



#### Co-operation with other institutions



The true cost savings for an institution would be visible only when more and more OER based course materials are developed and shared freely amongst peer institutions through a "Partnerships and Exchanges" model (Downes, 2007) reducing the need for re-development of common modules.

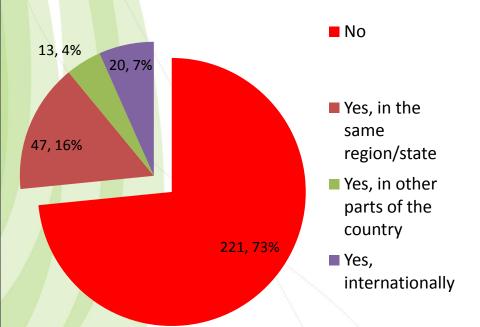
Flexible Affordable Accessible



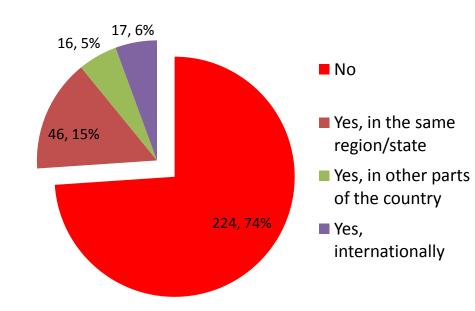
#### Co-operation with other institutions



#### **Producing**



#### **Exchanging**



Flexible Affordable Accessible



#### Barriers



the people's university

		Barrier?
1	Lack of awareness	Yes
2	Lack of skills	Yes
3	Lack of time	Yes
4	Lack of hardware	No
5	Lack of software	No
6	Lack of access to computers	No
7	Lack of ability to locate specific and relevant OER for my teaching	Yes
8	Lack of ability to locate quality OER for my teaching	Yes
9	No reward system for staff members devoting time and energy	Yes
10	Lack of interest in pedagogical innovation among staff members	Yes
11	Lack of support from management level	Yes

Flexible

Affordable

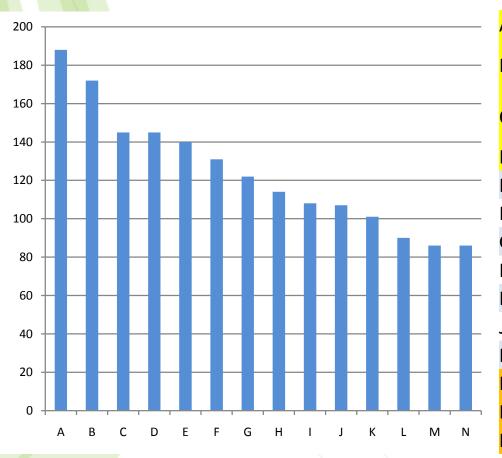
Accessible



# OER Concerns on use



the people's university



- Fear over copyright infringement

  Ownership and legal barriers (other than copyright)

  Awareness of the university OFP reposite
- Awareness of the university OER repository and other OER repositories
- D Skepticism over usefulness
- E Lack of reward and recognition
- F Lack of time
- G Lack of support
- H Relevancy of materials available
- I School/institution policy
- J Possible negative impact on reputation
- K Criticism from colleagues
- L Lack of feedback from users
- M Impact on career progression
- N Criticism from students

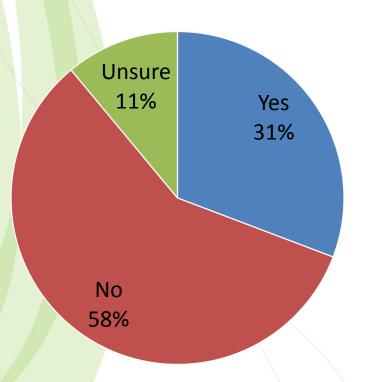
Flexible Affordable Accessible

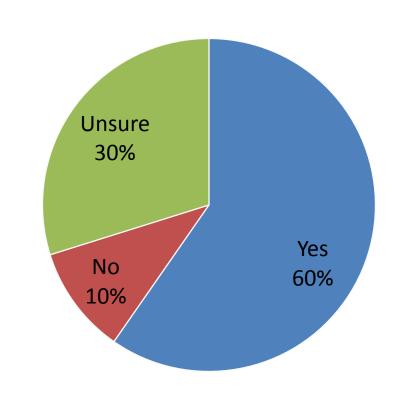


Attitudes towards publication

Have Published









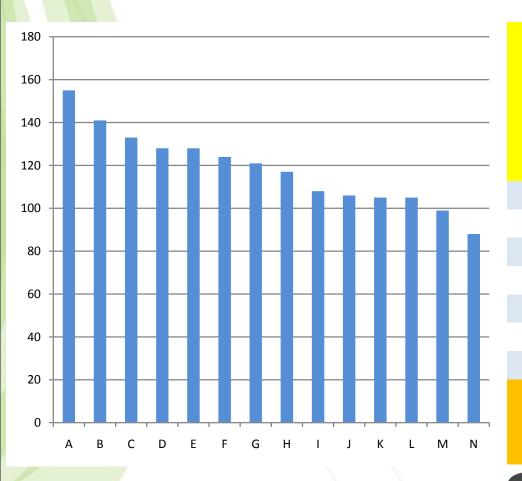
e Accessible



# OER Concerns on publishing



the people's university



- A Fear over copyright infringement
- B Ownership and legal barriers (other than copyright)
- C Awareness of the university OER repository and other OER repositories
- D Lack of support
- E Lack of time
- F Relevancy of materials available
- G School/institution policy
- H Lack of reward and recognition
- I Lack of feedback from users
- J Skepticism over usefulness
- K Possible negative impact on reputation
- L Criticism from students
- M Criticism from colleagues
- N Impact on career progression

Flexible Affordable Accessible

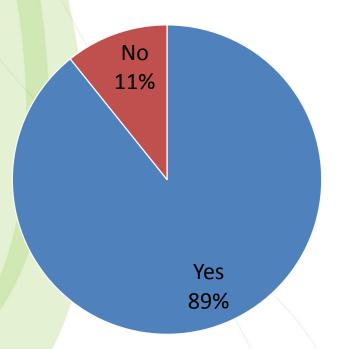
## OER Copyright awareness

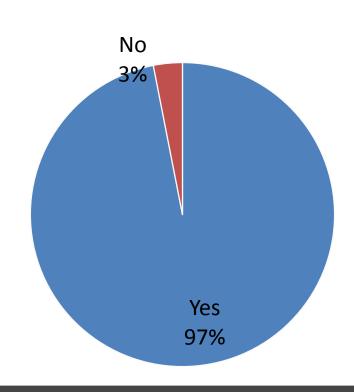
the people's university

wawasan open university

Individual

Institutional





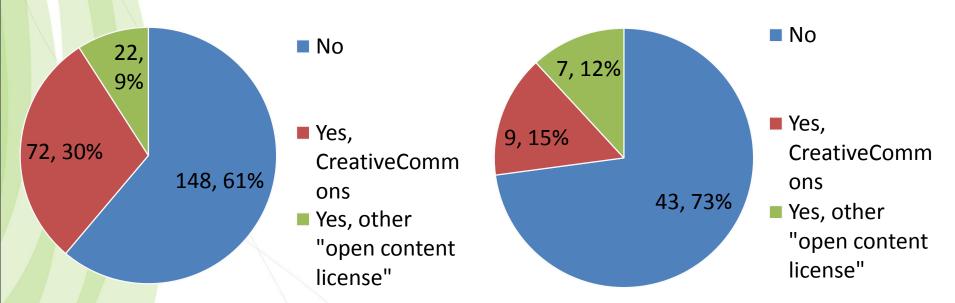
Flexible Affordable Accessible

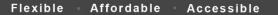


#### Use of copyright licenses











#### Copyright concerns



- Remixing different resources legally;
- Incorporates unlicensed third party content;
- Discovering materials can be legally used;
- Publishing material created.



#### Benefits of OER in teaching



- Gaining access to the best possible resources
- Promote scientific research and education as publicly open activities
- Bringing down costs for students
- Bringing down costs for course development for institution
- Outreach to disadvantaged communities
- Assisting developing countries
- Becoming independent of publishers (~50/50)
- Creating more flexible materials
- Conducting research and development
- Building sustainable partnerships



## Recommendations



the people's university

- Further support is needed especially at institutional level to facilitate capacity building in the use of digital resources and OER;
- A culture of collaboration between institutions needs to be established to harness the full potential of open content;
- More capacity building is needed at an institutional as well as national level to familiarise users with the benefits and limitations of open content licensing;
- Institutions need to establish set policies encouraging the wider use and re-use of open content.



# Acknowledgements



OERAsia Team Member	Region and Affiliation
Professor Emeritus Gajaraj Dhanarajan (Principle investigator) (gdhan@wou.edu.my)	Malaysia: Wawasan Open University (WOU)
Professor Tsuneo Yamada (tsyamada@ouj.ac.jp)	Japan: Open University of Japan (OUJ)
Professor Yong Kim (dragonknou@gmail.com)	S. Korea: Korea National Open University (KNOU)
Professor Li Yawan (ly@crtvu.edu.cn)	China: Beijing Open University (BJOU)
Dr Yuen Kin Sun ( <a href="mailto:ksyuen@ouhk.edu.hk">ksyuen@ouhk.edu.hk</a> ) Mr Alex Wong ( <a href="mailto:jwwong@gmail.com">jwwong@gmail.com</a> )	Hong Kong China: Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK)
Professor Patricia Arinto (patricia.arinto@gmail.com)	Philippines: University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU)
Professor Daryono (daryono.daryono@gmail.com)	Indonesia: Universitas Terbuka Indonesia (UT)
Dr Minh Do (minhdo@vnfoundation.org)	Vietnam: Vietnam Foundation
Dr Venkataraman Balaji (vbalaji@col.org)	India: Commonwealth of Learning (COL)
Dr Bharathi Harishankar (omkarbharathi@yahoo.com)	India: University of Madras
Mr Ishan Abeywardena ( <u>ishansa@wou.edu.my</u> )	Malaysia: Wawasan Open University (WOU)

## Acknowledgements



the people's university

The authors acknowledge the support provided by Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) in terms of hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> OERAsia workshop (16-17<sup>th</sup> April 2012).

The authors acknowledge the support provided by Wawasan Open University (WOU) in terms of acting as the anchor institution for the project.

The authors acknowledge the administrative support provided by Ms Khoo Suan Choo and Mr Lim Choo Khai.

The authors thank all the respondents of the survey for making this analysis possible.





Titles [...]

MORE

OER Training Toolkit

OER Asia Survey

About OER Asia



#### Thank you

### www.oerasia.org





OER Asia Meeting: 16-17 April 2012

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



## Authors



the people's university

 Ishan Abeywardena, Senior Lecturer, School of Science and Technology, Wawasan Open University.

(ishansa@wou.edu.my)

http://www.wou.edu.my/IshanAbeywardena.html

 Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Wawasan Open University. (gdhan@wou.edu.my)

