OER FORUM POLICY

This OER Forum is provided as a space where the OER Community can collaborate and discuss issues related to the use of OERs in higher education. As an online community, Users are requested to respect the rights of other Users.

1. General OER Forum Policy

Your access to and use of this Forum is subject to your acceptance of, and compliance with the provisions of this OER Forum Policy.

IMPORTANT: By participating in this OER Forum it is understood that you have read, understood and accepted this policy. If you do not agree to be bound by this policy, please notify the moderator who will suspend your membership of the OER Forum. If you fail to observe any of the provisions of this policy, we reserve the right, at our discretion and without notice, to suspend your membership of the OER Forum or to remove or edit any postings that you make.

2. Rules for using the OER Forum

- **General Behaviour -** Users must not post any messages or attachments to the OER Forum that are unlawful, illegal, fraudulent, offensive, threatening, abusive, harassing, tortuous, indecent, obscene, defamatory, invasive of another's privacy, or discriminatory whether racially, ethnically, sexually, religiously or otherwise, or which may incite or instruct any person or organisation to undertake such activities.
- **Use of Language -** Users must not post messages containing language that is in any way unlawful, threatening or offensive. This includes the use of swear-words, bad language and offensive nicknames.
- **Breach of Confidence -** Users must not post messages that might in any way breach the confidence of another individual. For example, an email received from an individual cannot be placed on the OER Forum without first obtaining that individual's consent.
- **Breach of Intellectual Property -** Users must not post messages that might in any way infringe any patent, trade mark, trade secret, copyright, database right or other similar right of any person.
- **Impersonation -** Users must not impersonate any person or identity, falsely state or otherwise misrepresent your affiliation with a person or organisation or disguise the origin of any content of a message.
- **Viruses -** Users must not post or upload files that might contain computer viruses or any other computer code, or programs designed to interrupt, destroy or limit the functionality of any computer software, hardware, or telecommunications equipment.
- **Illegal and Harmful Activities** - Users must not post messages relating to (or including links to) pirated software (including computer games), counterfeit goods or any other material which is, or might reasonably considered to be, illegal or otherwise harmful.
- **Pornography -** Users must not post messages relating to (or including links to) any kind of pornography.
- **Personal Data -** Users must not post messages containing another person's personal information (including their name, home address, job title, telephone number or other contact details) without first obtaining the relevant person's consent, nor may you use the OER Forum to collect or store personal information concerning other persons.

- o **Permitted Use -** You may only use the OER Forum for your own personal non-commercial use. You must not post messages containing or including links to any overt advertisements or promotional materials, or otherwise use the OER Forum overtly to generate personal business from other Forum Users.

3. Your Personal Information

When you register as an OER Forum User you were requested to provide some personal details. This information will not be provided to any 3rd party.

The OER Forum is a restricted community of participants who have registered with us. They include individuals involved in the OER community.

You are responsible for ensuring the safety of all other personal information. We recommend that you do not include your home address, job title, telephone number or other more sensitive personal information in any messages, unless you are entirely satisfied that such information should be made public.

4. Monitoring

In order to provide Users with general support and advice in relation to their use of the OER Forum and for security and abuse-management reasons, please note that the OER Forum is a moderated forum and we reserve the right to:

- o monitor all discussion on the Forum; and
- o take whatever other steps we consider are necessary to protect Users, including editing or removing any messages or suspending participants.

We do not undertake to monitor every message nor to monitor the conduct of every User. Moderators will access the Forum from time to time in order to help ensure that other Users are adhering to this Forum Policy.

5. Liability and Disclaimers

Please note that:
- o as the Forum consists largely of messages posted by Users that are not employed or contracted by us, we can accept no liability in respect of the content of any messages, including the accuracy or truthfulness of any such messages or any responsibility for the consequences of your acting in reliance on such messages, nor do we endorse any opinions expressed by any Users in any messages;
- o we cannot guarantee the prompt editing or removal of any messages;
- o we reserve the right at our sole discretion to remove or edit messages from the Forum or to suspend or discontinue any discussion at any time for any reason; and
- o we reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to deny any User access to the Forum, without notice, for any breach of this OER Forum Policy.

(Adapted with approval from "esd toolkit" found at http://www.esd.org.uk/esdtoolkit/ESD00118b-201forumpolicyV5.htm)