

# An Introduction to OER Africa

*COL-UNESCO Regional Open Educational  
Resources (OER) Policy Forum for Africa*

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# Who we are



# Why Open Educational Resources?

- **Sharing resources can reduce cost of acquisition of new resources and adaptation of outdated resources**
- **Creates opportunities to plug gaps in resource bases within institutions by pooling IP across the distance education community in Africa**
- **Collaboration in development and use of materials by African HE community can serve to improve quality of materials**
- **Opportunities to share expertise and build common capacity within Africa**

# Critical Success Factors / Challenges

- *Policy Review* – an OER policy should aim to encourage academics to publish their materials by focussing on incentives and also providing opt- out provisions. In terms of implementation, it is important to work with the willing.
- *Champions* – individuals or units that demonstrate passion and credibility, are critical if OER is to take hold. Need for both Senate level and implementation level involvement.
- *Skills* – not all academics necessarily have the skills to develop educational resources – whether openly licensed – or otherwise. Academics are usually employed as discipline experts not materials developers with the knowledge of how to search or tag.

# What can governments do?

- Support the use of OER through policies that regulate higher education.
- Review national ICT / Connectivity strategies for Higher Education.
- Support institutional investments in curriculum design.
- Support the sustainable production and sharing of learning materials.
- Collaborate to find effective ways to harness OER.

There is no single strategy that will work for every context, but a coordinated approach will likely yield the best results.

# Thank you

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OER Africa



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# A Vision for Higher Education in Africa:

- **Vibrant, sustainable African higher education institutions that play a critical role in building and sustaining African societies and economies, by producing the continent's future intellectual leaders through free and open development and sharing of common intellectual capital.**

# Leadership



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