Revolutionizing Education using Open Educational Resources

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Abstract

In the last years, Open Educational Resources (OER) have gained much attention and popularity. It is the influence of the Web on one side and a spirit of sharing intellectual property on the other that makes a new philosophy, the philosophy of making knowledge and education materials open to all for use. OER are content (courses, books, lesson plans, articles, etc.), tools (virtual laboratories, simulations, and games), and software that support learning and educational practice. They are free on the Web, and most have licenses that allow copyright holders to retain ownership while providing specified rights for use in original and modified forms. OER have also helped to level the distribution of knowledge across the world. However, in order to further benefit from Open Educational Resources it is necessary to gain a much clearer understanding of the role OER can play in changing educational practices. This paper explores the history of and promises and challenges for OER.