

## **Open Educational Resources Interoperability Sprint Outcomes: Linking OER Providers**

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### Abstract

“Working code trumps all theory” – Philip Dodds

We asked ourselves, what can we do to jumpstart the interoperability of Open Educational Resources projects like OpenCourseWare? We wanted to move beyond talk to actual implementation—we wanted to provide immediate benefit to the users of OpenCourseWare and related projects. The Center for Open and Sustainable Learning at Utah State University convened a group of dedicated and talented practitioners in open education to link together and integrate their work. Building upon independent services and using the web and standards to link them together, the participants at the Open Educational Resources Interoperability Sprint were able to federate resources in simple and straightforward ways. This paper will describe the technologies, services and projects that were developed over a two and half day period to further the interoperability of open educational resources. As an example, the OER Recommender (a simple content recommender service containing learning objects and open courseware courses) was integrated with at the Open University’s OpenLearn project, as well as with Connexions. Similarly, search functionality provided by OCW Finder and OER Commons were integrated at the OpenCourseWare Consortium portal and ccLearn respectively.

### Themes

The paper will address OpenWorld’s themes of technology (the what) by means of case studies (the who) by use of standards (the how).

### Philosophy

- “Working code trumps all theory” – Philip Dodds
- Simplicity: Simple tools, simple to use and integrate, small projects, tangible benefits

### Technologies

The interoperability projects during the sprint we enabled by these underlying technologies:

- RSS
- OAI-PMH
- Metadata: Application Profiles of Dublin Core and IEEE LTSC Learning Object Metadata
- APIs and web services

### Services

In the paper, we will briefly describe the following services:

- OCW Finder ([www.ocwfinder.org](http://www.ocwfinder.org))
- OER Recommender ([www.oerrecommender.org](http://www.oerrecommender.org))
- OER Commons External Search ([www.oercommons.org/external-search](http://www.oercommons.org/external-search))
- OER Feeds ([www.oerfeeds.info](http://www.oerfeeds.info))

### Projects

In the paper, we will describe the work conducted on these integration projects during the sprint. By the time of the conference all of these projects will be available from the production sites for the OCW Consortium, OpenLearn and Connexions. We will highlight the following projects:

- Integrating OER Recommender at OpenLearn
- Integrating OER Recommender and OER Commons Ratings at Connexions
- Integrating OCW Finder at OCW Consortium
- Integrating OER Commons Search at ccLearn