

**LEARNING THROUGH SHARING :
OPEN RESOURCES, OPEN PRACTICES, OPEN COMMUNICATION**

Open Educational Resources in Teaching English for Academic Purposes: opening up practice with open corpora, open tools and open content

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Abstract

With the Open Educational Resources (OER) and the Open Source Software (OSS) movements we have witnessed an explosion in digital resources available on the web for language learning and teaching. However, as language teaching practitioners we do not currently receive formal training in how to locate, use, adapt, create and share OER with our respective communities of practice (CoP). The sustainability of OER is therefore dependent on those informal CoPs who are engaging in open practices and those practitioners who are acting as OER in their various roles as teachers, trainers and researchers. Consequently, it is of high importance to consider how best to transfer this open practice, enabling non-specialists to engage with OER.

This paper presentation will explore a corpus linguistics approach to OER in teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP) based on an empirical OER cascade study conducted in the United Kingdom at Durham University's English Language Centre (DUELC) as part of the TOETOE (Technology for Open English – Toying with Open E-resources) project, managed by Alannah Fitzgerald, with the Support Centre for Open Resources in Education (SCORE) at the Open University. The Flexible Language Acquisition Project (FLAX) <http://flax.nzdl.org/greenstone3/flax> based on OSS at the University of Waikato in New Zealand will also be introduced. In particular, an exploration of the development of open corpora, web phrases and web collocations, derived from Google and Wikipedia n-gram collections will be provided along with a discussion on the feasibility of developing similar corpora with FLAX for other modern European languages.

Teaching participants involved in the OER cascade project at DUELC, Terri Edwards and Clare Carr, both experienced EAP practitioners, will present their experience of engaging for the first time with open practices for the design, development and delivery of innovative OER for EAP courses. OER in open file format were developed for teacher and learner training across two different EAP student cohorts (intermediate and proficient users of English) for enhancing student reading, writing and vocabulary acquisition in their specific subject domains. Training was also received in utilising open tools for text analysis (FLAX

and the Compleat Lexical Tutor <http://www.lextutor.ca/>) and for building your own corpora (the FLAX Moodle plug-in and AntConc <http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html>), enabling both students and teachers to effectively employ OER for language learning and teaching.