OER Africa

(part 1)
Tony Lelliot

OER in support of Openness in Higher Education

Saide
South African Institute for Distance Education

OER Africa

Overview

- What are OER?
- OER licensing
- Examples of sources of OER
- Using OER

Setting the Scene

- Too few learning resources for students and lecturers in African universities
- Many resources available are too expensive to be purchased by students, or even universities.
- Conversely, also many resources, including African ones, underutilised;
- Impossible to find a single resource that meets all needs for all time

Setting the Scene

- Changing expectations of students ("clients").
- Increasing diversity of students … who are often more mature.
- Changes in HE point to need to access more, and more diverse, learning resources.

What are OER?

This image is a resource

An educational resource

- What is the name of the bird in the foreground of the picture?
- Can you name 3 other varieties of this kind of bird?

An OER

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- Can you name 3 other varieties of this kind of bird?

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Citation: Tony Mays 2011

A Remixed OER

- The yellow hornbill shown left is one of four varieties of hornbills common across sub-Saharan Africa. The other varieties are the grey- and red- hornbills and the much larger ground hornbill.
- As the name suggests, the large horny bill is the key characteristic of the species. What does this suggest about their typical diet?

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Citation: Jane Kamau 2012
Photo: Tony Mays 2011

OER

- Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property licence that **permits their free use** and **repurposing by others**.
- OER include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge. (Hewlett Foundation, OER Defined)

The OER Concept

- Note the emphasis in the definition is ours, as we feel strongly that OER should:
  - be free
  - not require permission to use
  - allow new users to adapt and find new ways to use resources

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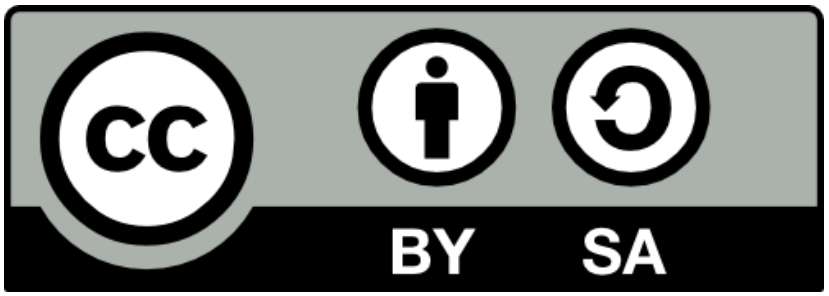

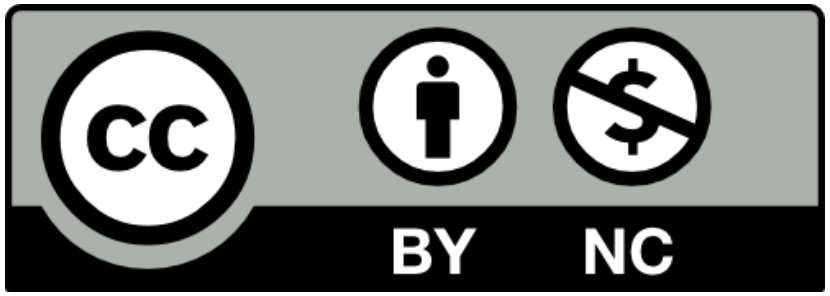

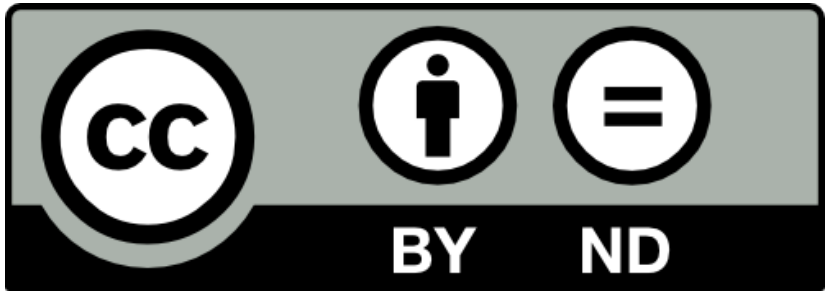

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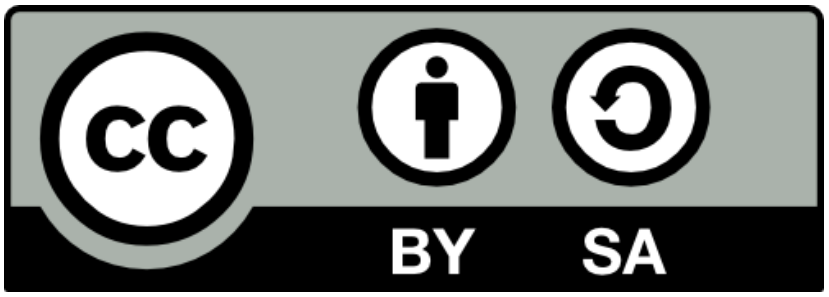

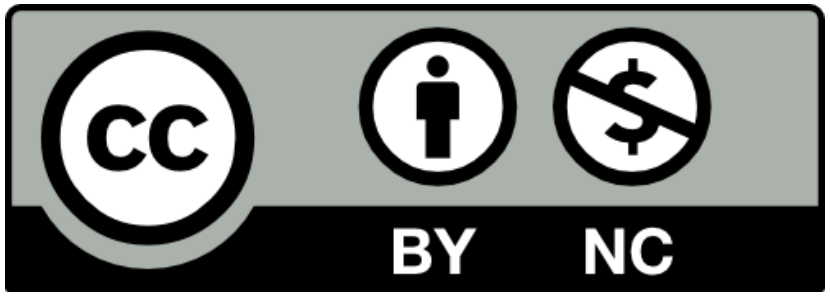

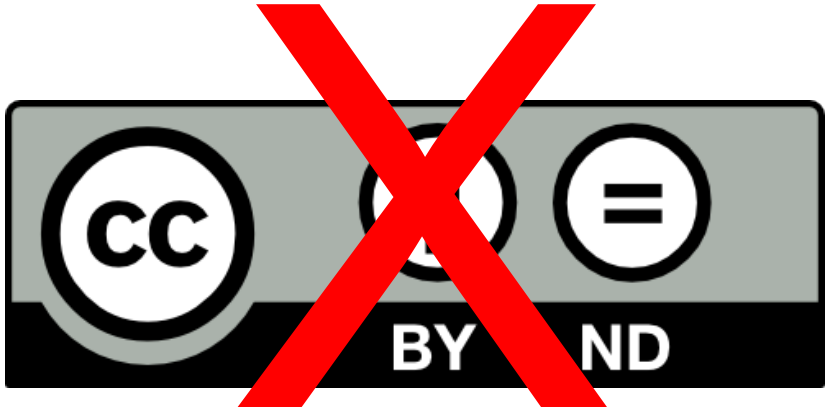

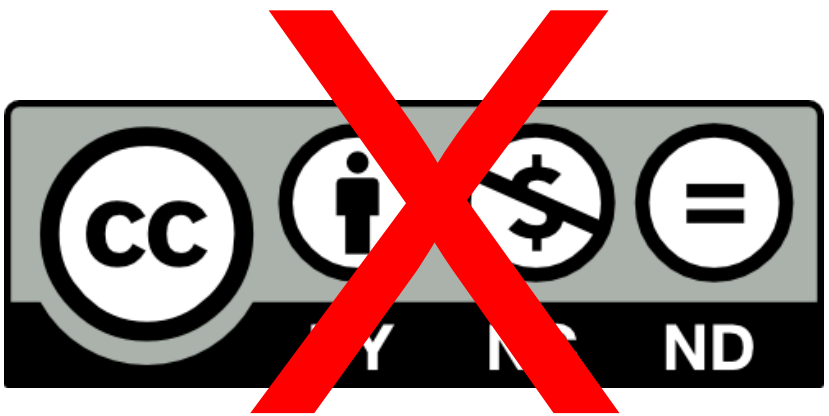

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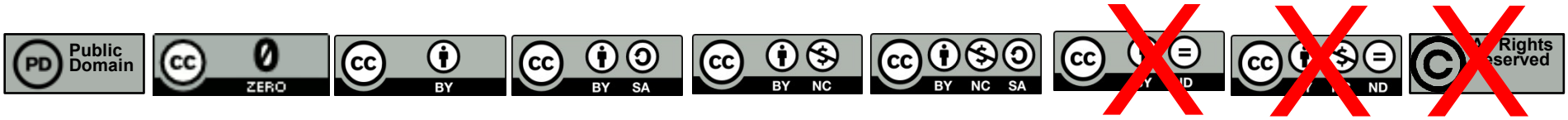

least restrictive

most restrictive

Why use OER?

Transformative potential

1. Increased availability of high quality, relevant learning materials can contribute to more productive students and educators.
2. The principle of allowing adaptation of materials provides one mechanism amongst many for constructing roles for students as active participants in educational processes.
3. OER has potential to build capacity by providing institutions and educators access, at low or no cost, to the means of production to develop their competence in producing educational materials and carrying out the necessary instructional design.

(Butcher, CoL 2011: 13)

Examples of OER available

Clinical Skills Programme

To download entire package as zip file click **here**

Contents:

- Abdominal Examination
- Respiratory Examination
- Cardio-Vascular Examination
- General Examination
- more...

Clinical Skills Examination Procedures: Afrikaans & Xhosa by Dept of Family Medicine,UCT is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-S
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The African Veterinary Information Portal (
recognized the need to share its educatio
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stakeholders and to provide high quality C
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will be achieved by drawing together the s
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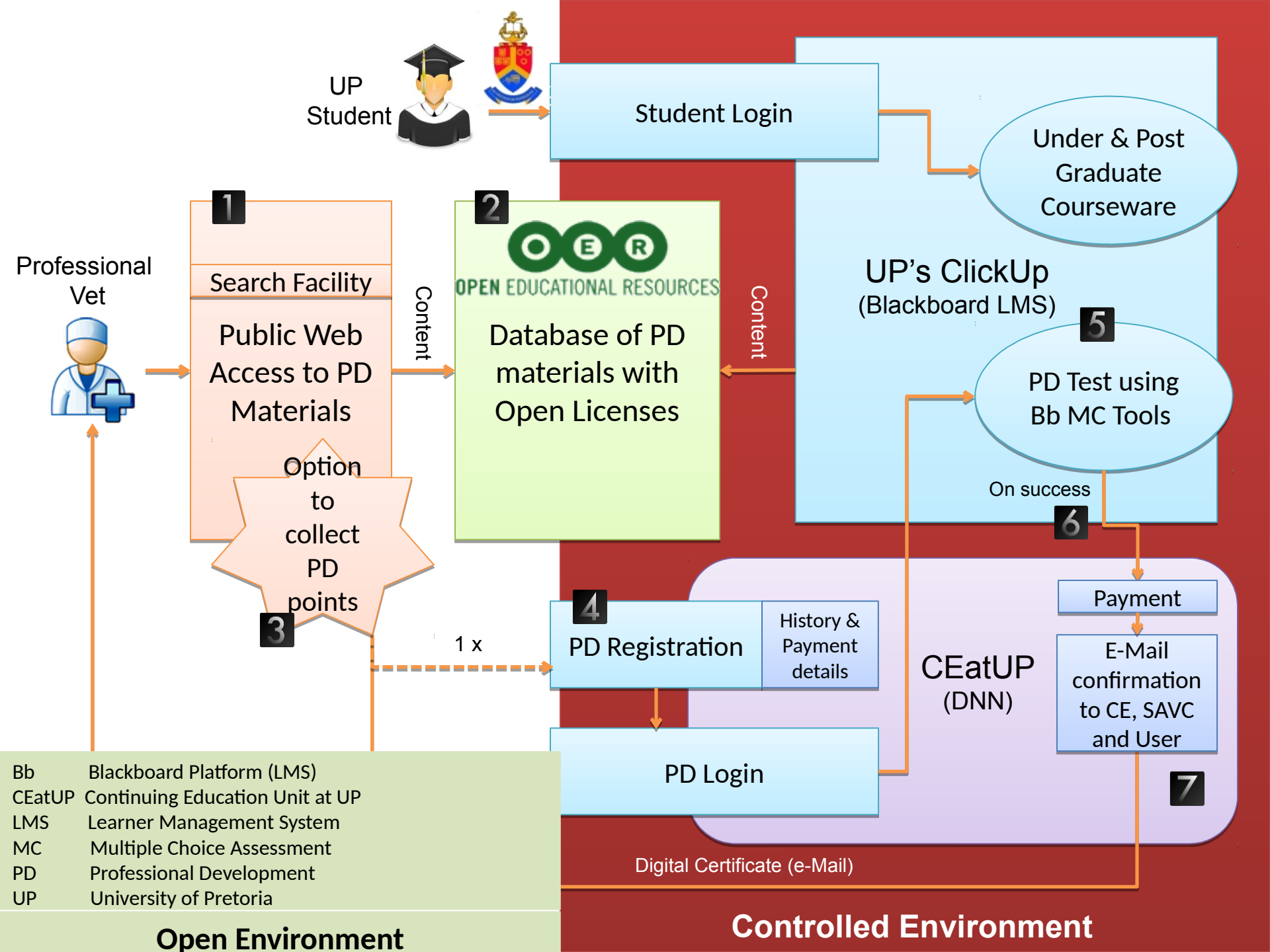
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(Blackboard LMS)
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Search Facility
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Content
2
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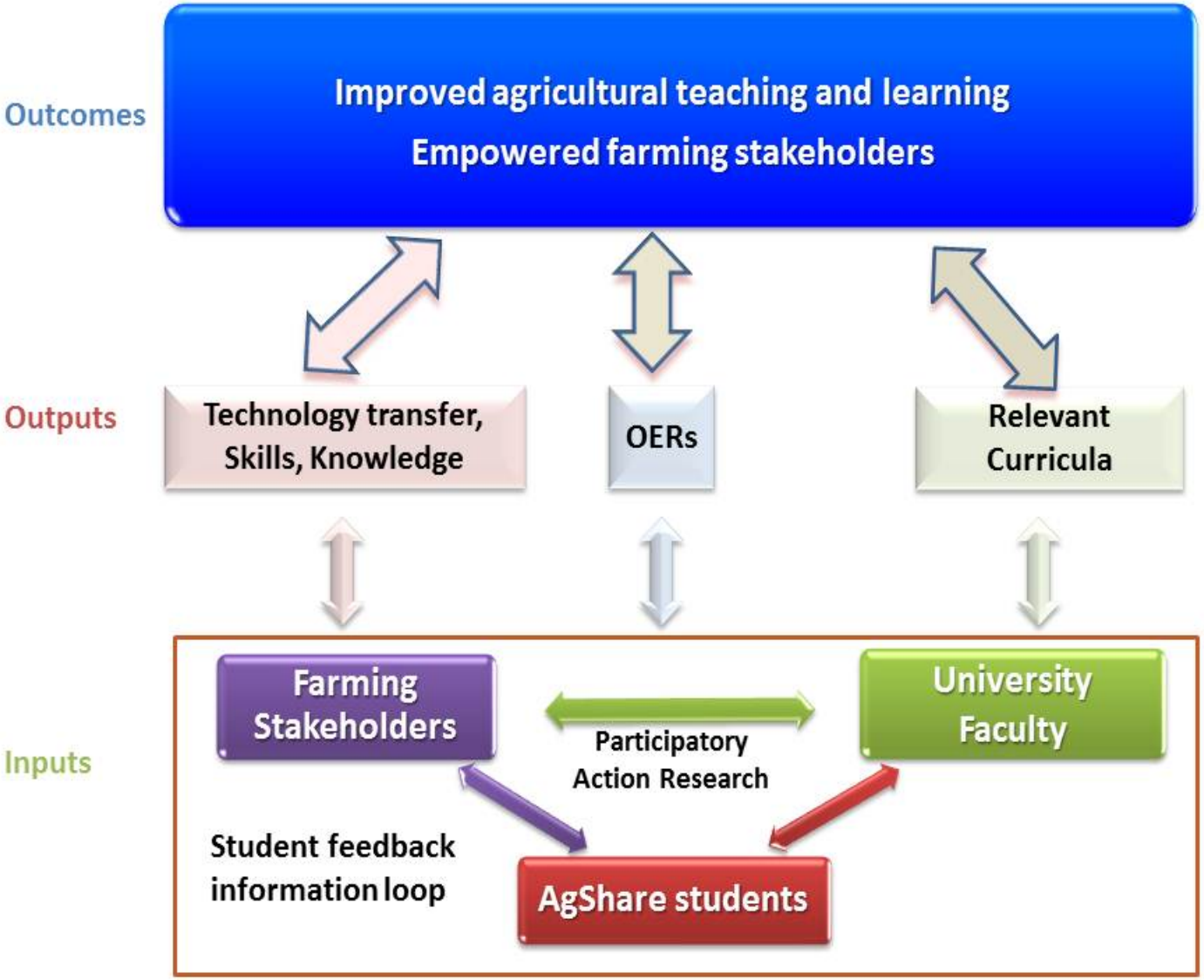
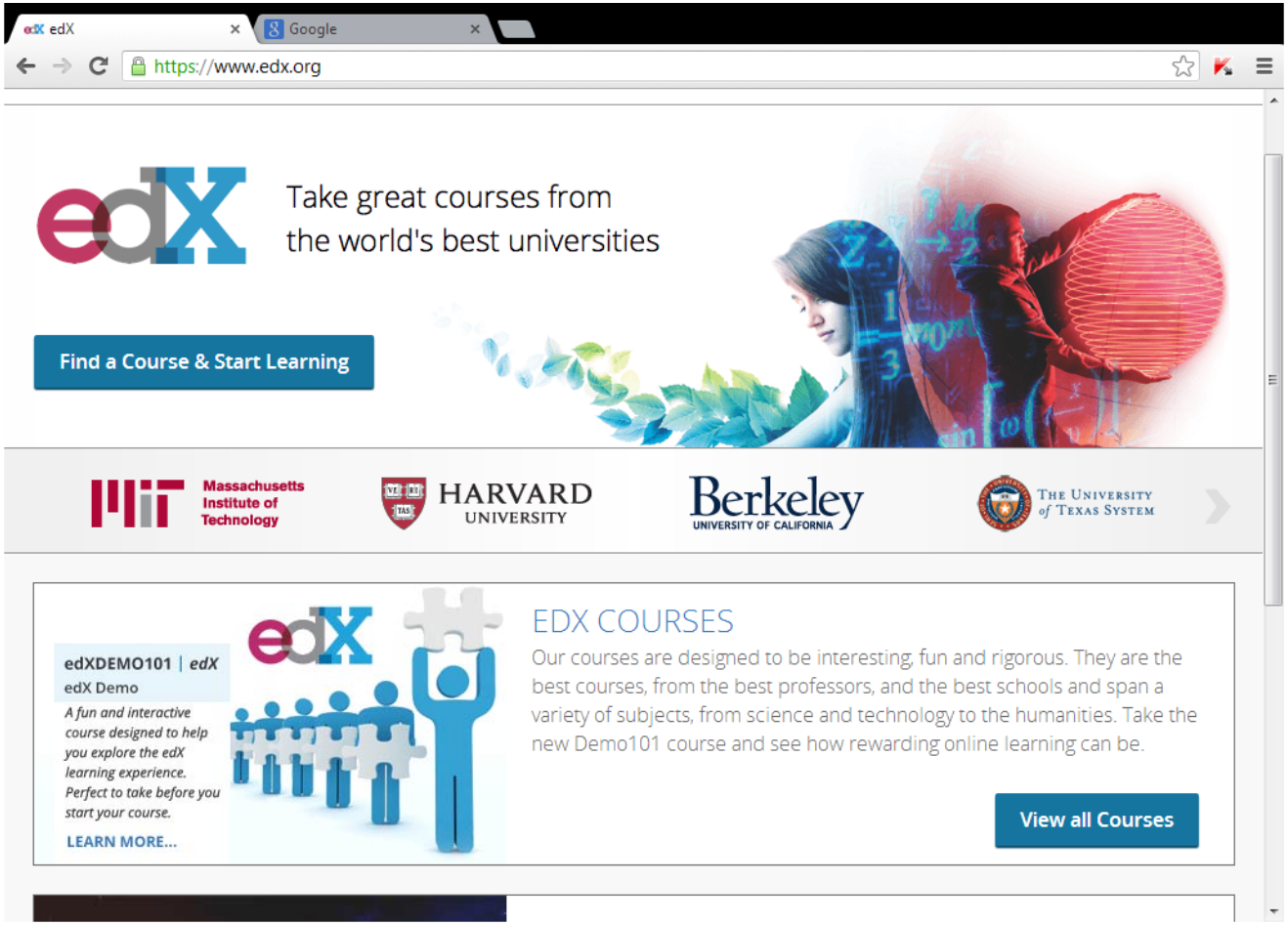
Content
5
PD Test using Bb MC Tools
On success
6
Option to collect PD points
3
1 x
4
PD Registration
History & Payment details
Payment
E-Mail confirmation to CE, SAVC and User
CEatUP
(DNN)
PD Login
7
Digital Certificate (e-Mail)
Bb Blackboard Platform (LMS)
CEatUP Continuing Education Unit at UP
LMS Learner Management System
MC Multiple Choice Assessment
PD Professional Development
UP University of Pretoria
Open Environment
Controlled Environment

AgShare


Outcomes
Improved agricultural teaching and learning
Empowered farming stakeholders
Outputs
Technology transfer, Skills, Knowledge
OERs
Relevant Curricula
Inputs
Farming Stakeholders
Participatory Action Research
University Faculty
Student feedback information loop
AgShare students

edX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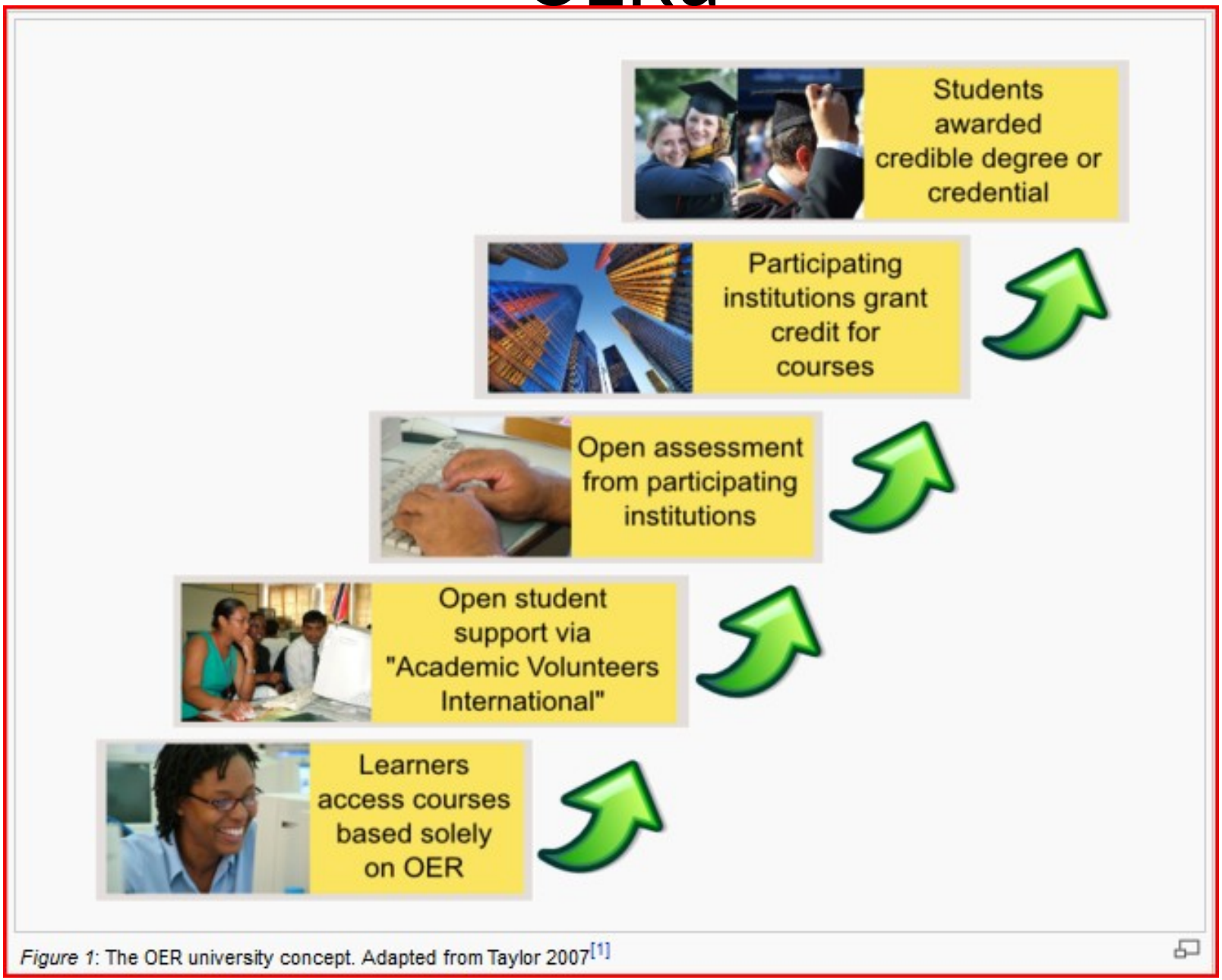

Figure 1: The OER university concept. Adapted from Taylor 2007[1]

world's first tuition-free online university - Mozilla Firefox

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SUPPORT US

BECOME A STUDENT

How can we use OER?

- As with research, look for what already exists and see how we can add value: adopt, adapt, create?

- Employ same level of rigour as in selection of traditional resources – source, fitness for purpose, contemporariness, accessibility, licence …

But

- It’s not just about information literacy
- It’s about **pedagogic** literacy

How does the resource **teach?**

- How will the resource fit into the way that you teach in your course?
- What are your underlying assumptions about how learning takes place?

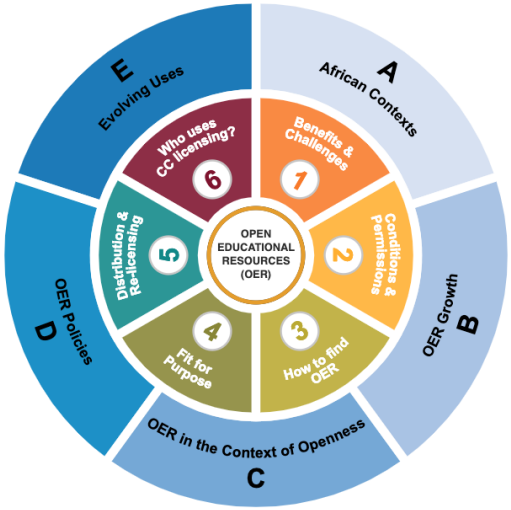
Or possibly another question

- **What challenge to your teaching approach is offered in the resource?**

Possibilities include

- Mixing and remixing
- Adapting/ localising
- Translating
- Extracting
- Re-using/re-purposing
- Re-curriculating
- “Mobilising”

More about OER



https://www.oerafrica.org/understanding-oer

https://www.oerafrica.org/book/welcome

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Citation:

Adapted from: Mays, T., & Ngugi, C. (2017). *Open Educational Resources for Activity-based ODeL and Flexible Provision. OER Africa*/Saide

Thank you

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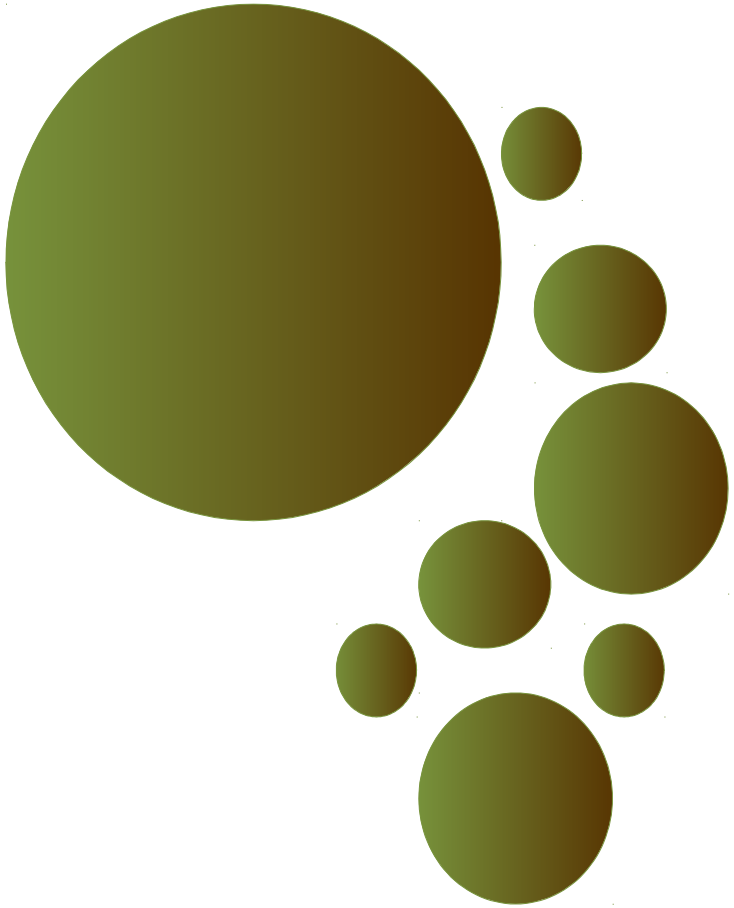

OER Africa

(part 2)

Neil Butcher

Why Openness in Higher Education

Saide
South African Institute for Distance Education

OER Africa

What are the Drivers?

- Historically disadvantaged students; many first-generation post-secondary students; likely to have received inadequate schooling
- Changing World of Work, due to technology
- Increasing unemployment rates amongst South Africa's youth
- Institutions under pressure to increase enrolments to accommodate demand for PSET

What are the Drivers?

- Explosion in collective sharing and generation of knowledge due to ICT; placing traditional role of educational institutions under pressure
- Concerted effort required to ensure that steps are taken to integrate marginalized students into ICT-enriched higher education environments
- Growing pressures on the time of academic and administrative staff to complete array of administrative tasks

What is open learning?

'… an **approach** which combines the principles of learner-centeredness, lifelong learning, flexibility of learning provision, the removal of barriers to access learning, the recognition for credit of prior learning experience, the provision of learner support, the construction of learning programmes in the expectation that learners can succeed, and the maintenance of rigorous quality assurance over the design of learning materials and support systems'.

Open learning is not a synonym for distance education or e-learning or blended learning or resource-based learning or OER – these are all important vehicles for open learning but should not be equated with open learning

“Why do we still talk about classes and lectures/lecturers as the organizing metaphor for higher education?”

What do we need?

- Ethical intellectual leadership more than ever
- Scalable solutions to the educational backlog
- To break our obsession with lecturing as the primary budget line in curriculum communication
- A higher education that prepares people to thrive in perpetually uncertain times

- A social contract with students that reminds them of their responsibility to work hard BUT
- A contract that also commits the university to focus its resources on helping hardworking students to succeed

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