

Scenario1: Collaborative Web Annotation with 'Ideas'

Where ideas can be simple keywords (tags), statements (Questions, answers, arguments), and paragraphs (general notes and summaries).

Anna is an undergraduate student who has to do a report describing the concept of “resilience”. Anna starts browsing to find an OER that could help her to learn about the topic. She goes to the OERcommon portal and types into the search box the word: “resilience”. Five resources are retrieved, and two of them are quite relevant for Anna’s study. She annotates the first OER page with the word ‘resilience’ (Fig. 1) so that she can access the website pointing to that OER later on, by searching by annotation. Moreover she posts a question to the sidebar asking the other learners for a better resource that actually contains the definition of resilience she is looking for (Fig. 1).

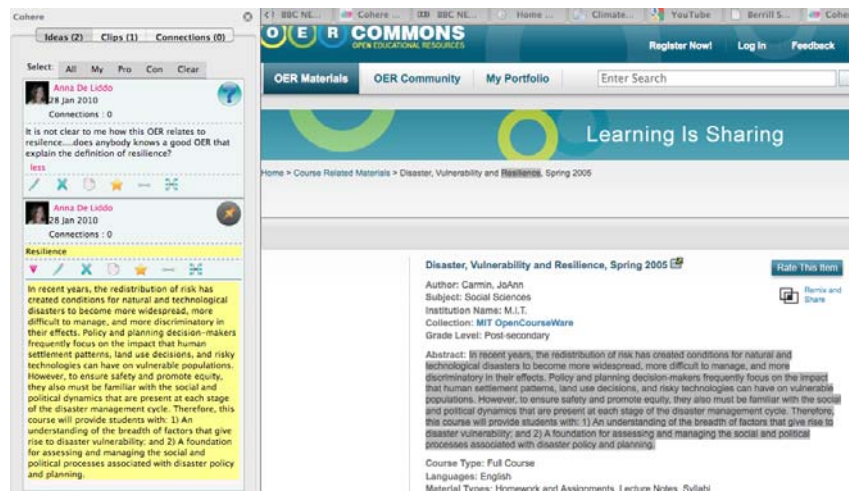


Figure 1

She goes on with her research and she visits the second site and she annotates it as ‘resilience’. Moreover, she decides to leave a note in the sidebar with a short summary of the OER she has just read, in particular for herself to remember in the future what it was about.

The assignment is for next week so she decides to stop and continue after dinner. When she comes back she returns to her workspace, where she had saved her annotations/ideas, both keyword annotations (tags), notes and questions, and decides to see if some of her classmates actually answered the question she posted on the sidebar. She clicks to open the question details and then she clicks the hyperlink to the site with that OER. She is happy to discover that Michelle, one of her classmates, has answered her and suggested a website to browse. She goes to the page pointed to by Michelle and she thinks that the new page is relevant and decides to annotate (tag) it as “resilience” so that she can store it in her workspace with the other pages.

At the end of the week, at the moment for report submission, Anna goes back to her Cohere working space and searches by keyword. She types “resilience” in the search box and she finds that, instead of her 2 sites, there are 5 other sites tagged as resilience by her classmate Simon (Fig.2).

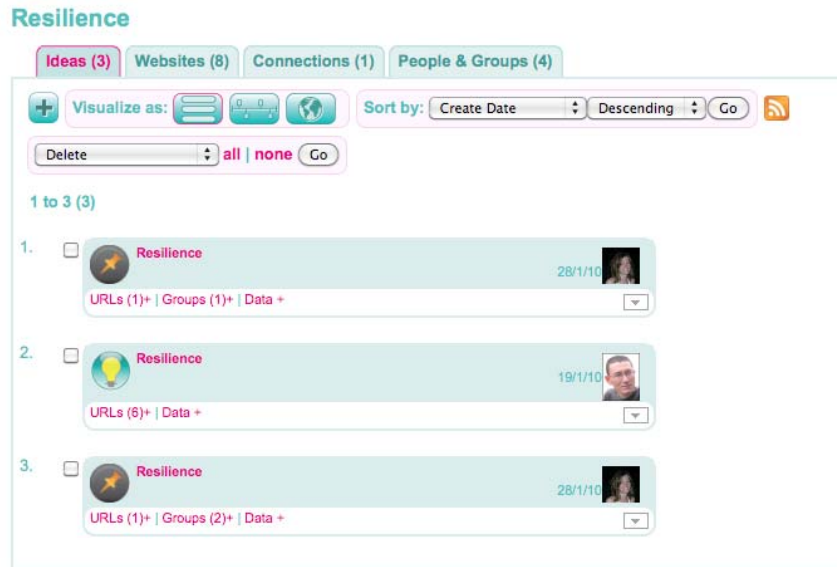


Figure 2

She checks who has annotated the sites, and she decides to explore the sites also based on how much she trusts the author's experience in the subject matter. She trusts Simon, so she starts exploring some of the resources he annotated. While navigating the sites she finds out that Simon has also annotated the pages with interesting notes and comments. This helps her to save time and to go straight to the point that is relevant for their assignment.

Summary and reflections

By using the Cohere Jetpack plugin Anna was able to receive help from Michelle to find a definition of resilience, moreover she could discover 6 new sites relevant for the assignment and finally she saved time by reading notes and summaries that Simon posted to the OER pages. Her friends' notes and summaries worked as a filter of relevant information and she could finish her assignment earlier and better than she could have done by working alone. Finally in her personal working space she has now saved the relevant information she found plus the pointers to other relevant information created, either by her friends or by making a direct connection (i.e. Michelle providing an answer to her question), or automatically suggested by the system, by label matching annotations.