Summary Report: Open Education Forum 2018

Open Education Week which is coordinated by the Open Education Consortium was celebrated from March 5 – 9, 2018. To celebrate Open Education Week 2018, the Centre for Flexible Learning (CFL) organised an Open Education Forum on March 15, 2018 at the Japan-Pacific ICT Multi-Purpose Lecture Theatre at The University of the South Pacific (USP). The forum was a half-day event running from 9am to 1pm. It was officially opened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Student Services Professor Richard Coll with the closing remarks by Professor Som Naidu, Pro Vice-Chancellor Flexible Learning and Director CFL.

The main purpose of the forum was to celebrate Open Education Week and to reflect on our progress in the area of Open Education since the 2017 Open Education Week USP Showcase & Forum. Some major achievements since the last forum was:

1. Creation and approval of the Open Educational Resources Policy (available in the USP Policy Library: https://policylib.usp.ac.fj/form.readdoc.php?id=736) and;

A notable presence at the forum was that of USP’s Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council, Mr. Winston Thompson, who was present for the Opening Address and the launch of the OER Repository by DVC Coll. Additionally, participants from the three USP Faculties along with representatives from the Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC), Fiji National University (FNU), Pacific Theological College (PTC) and students attended the forum.

The forum was also live-streamed at: https://www.usp.ac.fj/live

Staff and Student Presentation on Open Education at USP

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<tr>
<th>Presenter Details</th>
<th>Presentation Summary</th>
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| • Title: OER Course Conversion Projects
  • Presenter: Mr. Deepak Bhartu (Open Education Design Architect) | – Grants for OER Course Conversion.
  – 25 projects awarded Grants amounting to FJ$132,500.
  – Research element to examine the impact of OER integration on student learning experiences and learning outcomes. |

| • Title: CS111 Course Conversion
  • Presenter: Dr. Aidan Delaney (Senior Lecturer – Computing Science) | – OER reduces cost, potential to change the lecturer-learner model.
  – Interpretation of Copyright License Law varies from place to place.
  – Enables to deliver more for less.
  – Contextualising content for students with local examples.
  – Flipped classroom model. |
| Title: The USP Library’s Perspective on Open Education | - Library be the ‘first port of call’ for staff and students.  
- Ongoing advocacy by the Library for the use of free and open information resources.  
- Liaison Librarian Programme to support academics to identify OER.  
- Integrating OER in new course proposal forms.  
- Digital or information literacy (finding and evaluating quality OER)  
  - Library Information Research Skills Programme  
  - Library Information Literacy Programme  
- USP Library Open Access Resources: [http://usp.ac.fj.libguides.com/freeresources](http://usp.ac.fj.libguides.com/freeresources) |
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<td>Presenter: Mrs. Elizabeth Reade Fong (University Librarian)</td>
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| Title: PACFOLD Regional Activities in Open Education | - Established to champion Open, Distance and Flexible Learning (ODFL) in the Pacific through awareness, advocacy and capacity building.  
- Virtual Centre located at: [http://pacfoldlearn.org](http://pacfoldlearn.org)  
- Pacific Regional OER Consultation ([http://www.oercongress.org/event/pacific-regional-consultation-on-open-educational-resources/](http://www.oercongress.org/event/pacific-regional-consultation-on-open-educational-resources/))  
- Pacific ODFL Framework.  
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<td>Presenter: Mr. Matai Tagicaki (Project Officer - PACFOLD)</td>
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| Title: Students’ Perspective on OER | - OER help to supplement and do not disadvantage students that cannot afford textbooks.  
- OER give students access to a far greater pool of options in terms of learning material.  
- OER give students access to Pacific stories by Pacific peoples.  
- More explanation about the Creative Commons Licenses required so staff and students understand these better.  
- Coaching and Training of staff and students is essential. |
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<td>Presenter: Mr. Ernest Gibson (3rd Year Student in BA Politics and Pacific Language Studies)</td>
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Panel Discussion

The last segment of the forum was a panel discussion amongst stakeholders within USP. The aim of the panel discussion was to discuss the way forward for OE Enhancement at USP. The panelists included members from the Faculties, Library and Information Technology Services:

1. Dr. Matthew Hayward (Associate Dean, Learning & Teaching - FALE)
2. Dr. Nacanieli Rika (Associate Dean, Planning & Quality - FBE)
3. Dr. Robin Havea (Deputy Head of School, SCIMS - FSTE)
4. Mrs. Elizabeth Reade Fong (USP Library)
5. Mr. Peni Sigabalavu (ITS)

The questions for the panel were as follows:

1. What are your views on issues raised, specifically on adapting/adopting OER/OEP at USP more broadly?
2. Briefly outline the possible challenges and constraints when adopting OER/OEP and suggest solutions.
3. What are your expectations of CFL and other stakeholders in promoting OEP at USP?

The discussion of the panelists is summarised as follows:

- Open Education is a reality of Education in the 21st century
- OER could be a risk if only treated as a cost-saving exercise; quality could be compromised
- Encourage staff to be active producers of OER and reward staff through the Staff Review Process
- Coaching of academics on how to use OER is essential
- Collaboration with Library in identifying quality OER for course revision
- Quality of OER could be a push-back on the uptake of OER
- Revision of OER to ensure quality and consistency
- In terms of infrastructure, security is a concern as it opens up the network to vulnerabilities
- Execution of policies and not just creating them and storing in the Policy Library
- Possible inclusion of OE Practices in the Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching Programme

Professor Naidu in his closing remark stressed that academics need to rise above being a subject matter expert and become a teacher. Upskilling of staff is critical in the use of technology and CFL will continue to provide development workshops for staff and students.

All presentation slides and videos will be made available via the Open Education website at https://openedu.usp.ac.fj.

Deepak Bhartu - Open Education Design Architect
March 20, 2018