

Developing A Module on The General Principles of Emergency Care: a case study

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Introduction

Attitudes in education are changing to promote the sharing and openness of educational resources. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was a pioneer in establishing an open course ware project. This initiative was largely supported by William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has since 2001. The idea was to help educators in developing countries (and developed as well) use, modify, distribute and share published material provided that intellectual property is considered. UNESCO has defined open educational resources (OER) as ¹:

"The open provision of educational resources, enabled by information and communication technologies, for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for noncommercial purposes. (UNESCO, 2002)"

Most of OER are products of individual institutions such as MIT. This reflects the need for interinstitutional collaborative work in order to produce freely available educational material. Examples of such work are Connexions and Wikieducator ².

Like many other countries in Middle East, Libya suffer from learning resource availabilities and quality. In addition, this is due to the lack of experience developing such a resource. Due to the lack of open educational resources in general for Libyan student as for international student, Libyan International Medical University take the initiative to develop a course to be open for all learners. The case study for developing general principle of emergency care course is presented in this paper.

Methodology

First of all, developing such a course required to establish curriculum developing committee which contain in its membership a special subject expert in emergency care and an educationist. The six members of this committee set up the course specification for emergency care. Starting from title of the course and identifying the intended learning outcomes. This was followed by determining the year or level in which Module is taught and the duration of the course. The pre- requests and co-requests for this course were decided and finally the teaching, learning and assessments methods.

Upon the completion of course specification, the committee establish the course syllabus. For that purpose, several topics has been identified to cover each objective. Search terms included: adult resuscitation, altered mental status, anaphylaxis, apnoea, choking, defibrillation, seizures, triage, shock, hemodynamic instability, dehydration, coma, emergency history taking, etc.

Besides, for each topic knowledge and skills that student should gain were covered and mode of instruction and assessment were identified.

The next stage was collecting open educational resource material from different OER search engine. And for this purpose, a special spread sheet was created to record information about the collected materials. This information was topics, objectives, resource type, source link, attributions and license. The collected material was chosen to be of the most openly available ones. Different open educational resource search database was used to collect this information the most used were OER commons, Creative Commons, OCW search, MIT open courseware, Google advance search and KHAN academy.

Result

General principle of emergency course was developed using open educational resource approach, a snapshot from the spread sheet shown in figure (1). Furthermore, to make this course available for students the materials were uploaded to our electronic learning management system. The course was categorised based on the topics and each material was attached to its topic. Moreover, a new licence was generated using creative commons licence and attached the course specification and the electronic learning management system.

Subject	Topic	Objectives	Resource Type	Source	Attribution	License
	Frags	To demonstrate an understanding of the principles of frags.	Open	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...	Attribution	CC BY
	Initial approach: A&P	To demonstrate an understanding of the initial approach to all patients.	Open	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...	Attribution	CC BY
	Initial approach: P&P	To demonstrate an understanding of the initial approach to all patients.	Open	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...	Attribution	CC BY
	Water and physical exam in Emergencies	To demonstrate an understanding of the initial approach to all patients.	Open	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...	Attribution	CC BY
	Differential	To demonstrate an understanding of the initial approach to all patients.	Open	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...	Attribution	CC BY

Figure (1) Spread Sheet Sample

Discussion

This task was implemented with the objective of experiencing the process of using OER in creating a basic educational module. The creation of educational material requires resources as well as expertise in principles of education and learning. As it is required for most educational material, a course specification template was used to build up the course skeleton. There is plenty of literature on how to build up course specification. The specifications covered the usual learning domains described elsewhere. The main difficulty noticed by us is the relative scarcity of open educational resources on health subjects. We discovered during the collection of such material that a plenty of time need to be

invested in collecting and classifying the resources. In addition, a lot of training of staff need to be implemented to enable them to search for and use OERs. This requires a significant change in staff attitude as well as a considerable increase their awareness of protection of intellectual property. An important issue is the sustainability of the locally produced educational resources. A huge amount of effort need to be allocated to maintain and upgrade the products³. This requires the creation of permanent mechanisms allowing the trans-departmental coordination of OERs and monitoring their use. This calls for expansion of our IT staff armamentarium to be able to execute such functions

Conclusion

In conclusion, an increase in the awareness of OER and protection of copyrights was noticed. The technique of creating spread sheet for classifying and aligning resources was found to be practical and useful. Good internet services are mandatory for the whole process to succeed and develop.

References

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