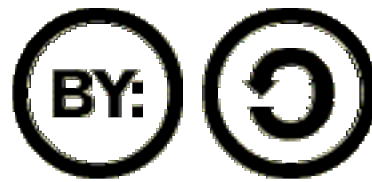


Learning with Open Source



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Graham Attwell

Occasional teacher, part time project manager, part time researcher, educational technologist, blogger, ex-building worker and ex-historian

Speaking as a historian,
education is slow to
respond to industrial
revolutions

OSS is one response to
the challenge of the
ongoing industrial
revolution to education

Learning with open
source - we need a
balance sheet

First - the good news

Open source *is* being
widely used in
education

**OSS Learning
management Systems
are becoming
mainstream**

Some progress in
adoption of OSS for
desktop applications

**Big progress in
development of Open
Journals**

The idea of reuse of learning materials is no longer seen as 'strange'

Open source has
inspired or - 'morphed
into' -social software
and web 2.0

**Providing far more
pedagogic choice**

Services based software often
does not have to be approved
by managers and installed by
administrators

**Publicly funded
programmes are
stipulating OSS**

Now, the challenges

**Lack of information and
support**

**Lack of confidence and
acceptance**

**Especially from
managers and systems
administrators**

**Standards are critical -
but are too complex**

**Interoperability is still
not there**

**Business models are
'emergent' and
collaboration models
too weak**

**We lack sufficient
discourse between
developers and
educationists**

**Sustainability models are
still being tested**

**We lack a common
language to talk to each
other**

Often the software just
isn't good enough

OSS tends to re-
engineer existing
proprietary applications

Applications to support educational management

Applications within the
existing paradigm of
educational systems and
models

OSS was intended to encourage creativity and free developers from the constraints of proprietary development models

To encourage
collaboration and
sharing

OSS has to have the
same approach for
learning

we need to think about
a literacy of information
navigation (or digital
literacy)

about how we can
support discovery based
learning and experiential
learning

learning through
absorption and trial

**Learning that is social
and concrete - based on
judgement and
exploration**

**interaction is a social
process**

If the medium is to be
the message.....

**learners have to be able
to control the medium**

**controlling and
developing their own
learning tools**

**their own Personal
Learning Environments**

OSS desktops may be
very important in this
respect

Open knowledge (and
content) remains a huge
challenge

**Teachers, trainers,
researchers and learners
are prepared to share**

**But - it is often
technically difficult**

Web 2.0 is helping

**blogs, wikis, tagging,
services**

but it needs to be much
easier to add an open
content license

**Finally, a plea for more
collaboration at European
and international level**

**and for a broader social
and political discourse**

thank you for watching
this presentation - if you
would like to find out
more visit.....

The Special Interest Group
for Open Source Education
in Europe (SIGOSSEE) -
www.ossite.org

and Graham Attwells blog - the Wales
Wide Web

[http://www.knownet.com/writing/
weblogs/Graham_Attwell/](http://www.knownet.com/writing/weblogs/Graham_Attwell/)