**BIOQuest Summer Workshop 2016 – Bissell talk notes**

Session title: Distributed creation, community guidance, and OER development: current models and emerging practices.

Presenter: Ahrash Bissell.

Website references:

* The NROC Project: <http://thenrocproject.org/>
* EdReady: <https://edready.org/>
* Etherpad: <http://etherpad.org/>
* Pirate pad: <http://piratepad.net/>
* Wikipedia
* DataONE (and associated sites): <https://www.dataone.org/>
* Hypothes.is: <https://hypothes.is/>
* Open Author: <https://www.oercommons.org/open-author-about>
* Google tools (docs, etc)
* CPR (Calibrated Peer Review): <http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/Home.aspx>
* Open Context: <http://opencontext.org/>
* Open Refine: <http://openrefine.org/>
* Creative Commons: <https://creativecommons.org/>
* Open Tapestry: <http://www.opentapestry.com/>
* FLOSS Manuals: <http://en.flossmanuals.net/>

A useful reference with more tools than you can really manage:

* E-Learning Tools Compendium (Jane Hart): <http://c4lpt.co.uk/directory-of-learning-performance-tools/instructional-tools/>

DataONE Data Life Cycle:

* Plan: description of the data that will be compiled, and how the data will be managed and made accessible throughout its lifetime
* Collect: observations are made either by hand or with sensors or other instruments and the data are placed a into digital form
* Assure: the quality of the data are assured through checks and inspections
* Describe: data are accurately and thoroughly described using the appropriate metadata standards
* Preserve: data are submitted to an appropriate long-term archive (i.e. data center)
* Discover: potentially useful data are located and obtained, along with the relevant information about the data (metadata)
* Integrate: data from disparate sources are combined to form one homogeneous set of data that can be readily analyzed
* Analyze: data are analyzed

**Community OER development life cycle:** Adapted from DataONE Life Cycle. [Uploaded here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zPwYuEpxFp2NsnRHRTJx4Dy8tHcVEqufDg_mAmvNegs/edit?usp=sharing).

* **Contextualize**: provide a purpose and context for the work, both in content and distribution/utility.

Examples: Wikipedia, Data curation rubrics, CPR, FLOSS Manuals, Textbooks, etc.

* **Segment**: identify the various possible stages of development (for new OER) and/or revision (for remixed OER) as well as the different roles and expertise that might be necessary or useful to achieve a “publishable” product.

If it is a collaborative project, make sure to capitalize on the strengths of the participants, as well as the various constraints and realities that will affect participation. If you are repurposing existing material, much of the structure will have already been established and this step might not be necessary.

Examples: Original authoring versus editing, formatting, embedded media, responsive design, marketing, etc.

* **Integrate** with supporting technologies.

Examples: Collaborative authoring software (Etherpad, Piratepad, Google Docs, Open Author, etc), collaborative review and conversation platforms (Google Docs, Hypothesis, QUBES, etc), open publishing platforms (FLOSS manuals, Wikia, etc), open distribution channels (OER Commons, Gooru, Youtube, etc), integrated feedback and metrics management (Google Analytics), mechanisms for maintaining provenance and version-control (Github , Hypothesis, etc), etc.

* **Encourage** (and monitor): this doesn’t work unless people contribute! Set deadlines. Be ambitious.

What metrics count? Things don’t get done unless there are clear expectations, deliverables, and public accountability. Modest game dynamics can go a long way here… “participation points”, public metrics around collaborative activities, etc.

* **Support** and **Evaluate**: you may not need to reach consensus. Check assumptions! The discussion may prove to be the most valuable aspect of the exercise.

Make sure that people feel they can voice opinions. Having a forum is more important than acting on the opinions. Try to stay away from overly formalizing the process. Vote up/down mechanisms are easy and powerful but can become easily co-opted as expectations rather than guidelines. Reward participants with mentions. Extol the virtues of engagement.

* **(Re)Publish**: consider formats appropriate for intended permissions and downstream uses. Multiple formats are usually best.

It doesn’t build community, let alone capacity, if you don’t contribute to the Commons, however construed. If you repurposed someone’s work, celebrate! By putting your version back into the collection, properly attributed (for recognition and provenance), you are encouraging the creation and sharing of more work, both original and derived. If you intend to promote further derivation, you need to consider supporting formats for that intention.

Examples: QUBES, OER Commons, etc.

* **Repurpose**: it’s OER. The whole point is to build on the work of others. Even if you decide to build from scratch, starting with an assumption that repurposing is not only possible but encouraged is a vast improvement.