Enhancing synergies between technologists, learning support specialists and academics utilizing Open Educational Resources

A workshop designed to equip learning technologists with strategies for collaborating with academics and learning support professionals in the adoption and adaptation of open educational resources (OER) for learning and teaching. This workshop is particularly relevant to professionals working in higher education, with many institutions seeking to improve the quality of their teaching provision within a climate of continually diminishing resources and greater student expectations, and reflects recent recommendations from the Online Learning Task Force report (January 2011) for greater integration of the OER agenda in Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL).

This workshop will draw on lessons learned from recent projects effectively engaged in the deployment of OER. Participants, who typically have a responsibility for supporting TEL, will have the opportunity to engage with multiple perspectives on best practice for collaborating on OER design and development with teaching practitioners working across settings of formal or informal learning, undergraduate or postgraduate education, and lifelong learning.

The workshop will take the following format.

1. (10 minutes) An introductory discussion that will:
   Establish a context for the development and use of OER in today’s challenging educational climate, sharing and highlighting potential issues

2. (30 minutes) Four scenario-based activities to be explored in small groups, focusing on how best to maximise collaboration between learning support specialists and academics, including:
   Design principles and practices for the transformation of traditional educational media design and delivery utilizing OER
   The “ah, buts” explored, managing barriers and challenges to OER development and use
   How and where to source valuable and useful OER at a glance
   Openness, or the intellectual property and copyright issues of OER

3. (10 minutes) A plenary discussion, calling on participants to share the outcomes of their small group collaboration on the scenarios supplied.

4. (10 minutes) Full group discussion, consolidating and sharing best practice for ways forward

As a takeaway, participants will leave the workshop with a clear understanding of the resources available and the information pertaining to support networks for encouraging good OER practice among their colleagues at their home institutions.