Prizing Open and Enhancing Research Corpora for Language Teaching

http://www.flickr.com/photos/pureminds/4536821738

Alannah Fitzgerald
Overview

• Prizing open research corpora with OER for EAP/ELT
  – FLAX collections with the BNC, BAWE, Wikimedia, Google N-grams
  – Higher Ed. podcast corpora (OER audio/video + transcripts)

• Beyond the textbook and the dictionary
  – More powerful = more examples of language in use across a range of linked authentic language contexts
  – More user-friendly than the standard concordancer interface
  – More OER for learners and teachers
    • Independent study resources
    • Pathways for building OER collections

• New audiences – linking formal and informal learning
  – TTV, BALEAP, IATEFL, OERu
Linked resources = super resources

http://www.flickr.com/photos/aka_kath/185679814/
The FLAX (Flexible Language Acquisition) project aims to automate the production and delivery of practice exercises for overseas students who are learning English. Exercise material comes from digital libraries, which can supply a virtually endless supply of collaborative and competitive language activities. *(All software produced by this project is open source, issued under the GNU General Public License.)*
Beyond the textbook and the dictionary

http://www.flickr.com/photos/rooners/5252360381/
Learning Collocations collection in FLAX

FLAX team collections building:
Shaoqun Wu, Ian Witten, Margaret Franken, Xiaofeng Yu – Waikato University

### used as a noun
- Research grant
- in research
- social research
- research aims to
- piece of research
- undertake research
- engaged in research

### related collocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>research</th>
<th>hypothesis</th>
<th>scientific</th>
<th>empirical</th>
<th>method</th>
<th>prediction</th>
<th>academic</th>
<th>hourglass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>quantitative</td>
<td>journal</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>observe</td>
<td>electronic</td>
<td>data</td>
<td>analyze</td>
<td>accuracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Academic publishing describes a system that is necessary in order for **academic scholars** to peer review the work and make it available for a wider audience.

### definitions

**Research** can be defined as the search for **knowledge**, or as any systematic investigation, with an open mind, to establish novel facts, solve new or existing problems, prove new ideas, or develop new theories, usually using a **scientific method**.  
[Wikipedia]

**extended definitions from wiktionary**

### related topics in Wikipedia

- Social sciences
- Research and development

[http://tinyurl.com/73zcgac]
Wikipedia mining tools

(1) extracting collocations from Wikipedia articles for the "related collocations” section of the Learning Collocations collection.

(2) using a Wikipedia server running at the University of Waikato’s Computer Science Department to retrieve definitions and related topics for each query term.
When a user issues a query, e.g. “economic bubble”, FLAX is doing the following:

1. Grouping collocation types e.g. noun + noun from the selected corpus (BNC, BAWE, Wikipedia)
(2) If the query term, e.g. “economic bubble” matches an article in Wikipedia, collocations of that article are presented as related collocations, grouped by the keywords of that article. The keywords are ranked using their term frequency–inverse document frequency (TF-IDF) scores.
(3) Retrieves the definition of the query term (normally, the first sentence of the matched article (e.g. the "economic bubble" article) from the Wikipedia server.

**definitions**

An economic bubble (sometimes referred to as a speculative bubble, a market bubble, a price bubble, a financial bubble, a speculative mania or a balloon) is “trade in high volumes at prices that are considerably at variance with intrinsic values”. [Wikipedia]

extended definitions from wiktionary
(4) Retrieve related articles for the "economic bubble" from the Wikipedia server and present as ‘related topics’.

**Related topics in Wikipedia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related Topic</th>
<th>Related Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real estate bubble</td>
<td>South Sea Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States housing bubble</td>
<td>Mississippi Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial crisis</td>
<td>Austrian School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulip mania</td>
<td>Asset price inflation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt deflation</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irving Fisher</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstream economics</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian business cycle theory</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Keynesian economics</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese asset price bubble</td>
<td>Behavioral economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish property bubble</td>
<td>Technical analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal funds rate</td>
<td>Fundamental analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd behavior</td>
<td>Moral hazard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Behavioral economics** and its related area of study, behavioral finance, use social, cognitive and emotional factors in understanding the economic decisions of individuals and institutions performing economic functions, including consumers, borrowers and investors, and their effects on market prices, returns and the resource allocation.
The BAWE text sub collections

British Academic Written English (Life Sciences)

About Collection Search Browse Collocations

Thromboembolic Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original</th>
<th>wikify</th>
<th>noun</th>
<th>verb</th>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>preposition</th>
<th>adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Referral information
Mr was referred to the accident and emergency department after presenting at an NHS walk-in clinic. History PC:
Mr presented with acute pain and paraesthesiae in the right ankle. HPC:
Mr awoke from sleep yesterday morning with pain and paraesthesiae in the right ankle. The pain was described as a sharp, constant stabbing pain that was aggravated by movement and weight bearing. He was fit and well the previous day. There was no history of swelling or bruising. No chest pain, dyspnoea or pyrexia. No history of hypertension or claudication. No recent travel or localised trauma. PMH:
No history of MI, CVA, TIA, COPD, DM or epilepsy DH:
SH:
Mr works as a painter and decorator. He currently lives in a privately owned house with his wife. He also has two daughters and a son. He doesn't have any mobility problems and takes regular recreational walks. Analysis of history
Given the history of acute onset pain and paraesthesiae in an extremity, the most likely cause for's presentation is acute limb ischaemia. This condition typically presents with six classic features (6P 's), which include pain, paraesthesiae, pallor, pulselessness, perishingly cold and paralysis (due to nerve damage) and therefore additional signs should be sought upon physical examination. Acute ischaemia occurs due to sudden arterial occlusion and can arise as a result of

http://tinyurl.com/cpwyefb
Mr was referred to the accident and emergency department after presenting at an NHS walk-in clinic.

An Emergency Department (ED), also known as Accident & Emergency (A&E), Emergency Room (ER), Emergency Ward (EW), or Casualty Department is a medical treatment facility, specialising in acute care of patients who present without prior appointment, either by their own means or by ambulance.

Related topics in Wikipedia

- Blood pressure
- Obesity
- Tachycardia
- Headache
- Cardiovascular disease
Creative commons podcast content

What can you do with this?

http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/resources/index.html#posters
Linking open tools and open pods

This is an example of how a podcast series can be combined with other freely available resources to enhance the user experience and offer additional support to non-native speakers and those from other subject areas. The resource offers links to the audio of eight conversations and transcriptions of these, as well as material to support the learning and understanding of the vocabulary involved.

All the material is being made available under the Creative Commons BY-NC-SA licence.

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The Credit Crunch and Global Recession

About the series: A podcast series (eight talks) about the credit crunch and global recession featuring Oxford academics. This series will examine how the current crisis developed, analyse market and government responses to it, and look at what might happen next.

Participants:

- Dr. Linda Yueh, Fellow in Economics, University of Oxford.
- Prof. Jonathan Michie, Professor of Innovation and Knowledge Exchange, Director of the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford.
- Martin Slater, Fellow and Tutor in Economics, St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford.
- Dr. Ouli Aamio, College Lecturer in Economics, Lincoln College and St. Edmund Hall, University of Oxford.

http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/crunch/
Creative Commons Licensing Suite

http://www.flickr.com/photos/peterleth/
What are OER?

OER Commons:

“Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse, without charge. OER often have a Creative Commons or GNU license that state specifically how the material may be used, reused, adapted, and shared.”

http://www.slideshare.net/tbirdcymru/itunes-u-corporate-channel-of-free-educational-resources
## iTunesU OER Success Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attractive to contributors</th>
<th>Usable</th>
<th>Useful</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Sustainable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile ✔</td>
<td>User Experience ✔</td>
<td>Quality material ✔</td>
<td>Download numbers ✔</td>
<td>Over 800 universities ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Apple gloss’ ✔</td>
<td>Search function ✔</td>
<td>Consistency ✔</td>
<td>Teachers ✔</td>
<td>Apple ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International reach ✔</td>
<td>Apple mobile ✔</td>
<td>Copyright ✔</td>
<td>Personal ✔</td>
<td>Benefit to contributors/ institution ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linux, Android ✗</td>
<td>Feedback ✗</td>
<td>Not very repurposable ✗</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discoverability ✗</td>
<td>Community ✗</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.slideshare.net/tbirdcymru/itunes-u-corporate-channel-of-free-educational-resources](http://www.slideshare.net/tbirdcymru/itunes-u-corporate-channel-of-free-educational-resources)
It’s all in the downloads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open University, UK</td>
<td>Over 34 million since June 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>Over 9 million since June 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry University</td>
<td>2.5 million in 2010 alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td>1 million Jan ‘09 – June ‘10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.slideshare.net/tbirdcymru/itunes-u-corporate-channel-of-free-educational-resources
Arguably, competencies with resources cut across the whole of the TEAP framework.

http://www.baleap.org.uk/baleap/parties-projects/eap-teacher-competencies/
Publisher priority: black ‘n’ white teachers’ books
Publisher Priority: overreliance on textbooks
EAP vs ESAP
AWL vs AVLs

- Going back to the source with open corpus-based resources and projects
- Keeping up with tools and trends from the research

http://www.whsmith.co.uk/CatalogAndSearch/ProductDetails.aspx?productId=9780131833081#
Beyond audience boundaries
Russell Stannard - Teacher Training Videos

ELT/ESL TRAINING VIDEOS
Just click on any of the topics on the left hand side. All the videos deal with ELT/ESL and provide loads of great sites and tips on how to use them.

THE TEN MOST POPULAR SITES
Website of the month
A Brilliant collection of easy and fun sites to get you started in 2011. Something here for everyone in ELT.
10 great ELT sites to start 2011

Screen Capture using JING Two sets of videos. One shows you how to use Screen Capture and one shows you some ideas for using it.
How to use JING
Ways of using JING

MailYu and Vocaroo Really simple way of getting your students talking.
How to use MailYu and Vocaroo

Audio Book Brilliant podcasting tool and so easy to use.
How to use Audoboo

iTunes This set of videos shows you how to download podcasts, how to use iTunes you and how to apps too. An amazing tool.
Getting content from iTunes

Learning to use Twitter Videos shows you all you need to get started in Twitter. The 2nd and 3rd set shows you how to you Tweet Deck.
How to get started in Twitter

http://www.teachertrainingvideos.com
OERu – open and distance education

http://wikieducator.org/OER_university/Planning/OERu_2012Prototype
Widening audience participation
Open Content, Practices, Communities

http://www.flickr.com/photos/edibleoffice/5391049006/
Thank you

Email: fitzgerald@education.concordia.ca;
Blog: Technology for Open English – Toying with Open E-resources
www.alannahfitzgerald.org
Twitter: @AlannahFitz
Slideshare: http://www.slideshare.net/AlannahOpenEd/