

35 – CMS Integration with Open Educational Resources

Action Item Template Response

General Action Item Information

Action Item Number: 35

Action Item Short Name: CMS Integration with Open Educational Resources

Dependencies with other EP Action Items: 57

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I. DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ACTION.

As noted in the strategic plan, the area of Open Education Resources (OER) has gathered momentum in resources that are smaller, modular, customizable for local usage, peer reviewable, and used to provide supplementary materials and activities or even form the core materials for a course or textbook.

At IU, for those faculty and instructors who have created materials they would be willing to share with colleagues locally or even globally, there is currently not a convenient way to make those materials available as the materials are often deeply embedded in our course management system.

As stated in the strategic plan, "IU needs to provision an appropriate data utility for the university to create, share, annotate, and update open educational resources while also connecting more easily to a world of open education resources. This utility needs to work with institutional course management system tools and evolving learning environments."

To begin providing a data utility for accessing, storing, and sharing education resources, IU should work off the platform developed by Rice University called Connexions, and seek ways to integrate it with Sakai in partnership with others in the community. This integration should support the ability to easily incorporate materials into course sites through import or linking to outside resources. As a member of the Connexions consortium, IU will most likely need to contribute programmer resources through the ES division.

In addition, some additional changes to the course management system would assist further with the sharing and integrating open education materials require:

- 1) the ability to make a course management site available as a viewable/sharable resource.
- 2) the ability to integrate interactive materials in standard formats that can record student use and/or achievement to the course management system.

II. WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR PLANS?

IU's involvement in creating and consuming open education resources will require somewhat of a

culture change within our institution, including incentives and rewards for involvement by faculty, departments, and schools.

III. IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS.

Faculty, departments, schools, libraries, high-level academic administrators.

III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

1. New partnerships have been established with the Indiana University libraries to encourage faculty use of existing open educational resources.
2. A preliminary technical and functional evaluation of the Connexions platform has been conducted internally.
3. Openness and interoperability design goals are key targets for the development of the next generation of Sakai, called the Sakai Open Academic Environment. IU is one of six global institutions providing significant material contributions to the project this fiscal year.