

The AVU
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)
PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA

Peter Bateman

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The AVU OER Architecture

- AVU OER strategy inspired by:
 1. Belief that knowledge and education are for the 'common good' and are not 'owned'
 2. Belief that OERs will significantly contribute to the advancement of human knowledge, creativity, and welfare
 3. Belief that by sharing quality OERs we avoid needless duplication of limited resources
 4. Belief that the digital divide risks being further weakened by the 'knowledge divide'

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Key Issues

- Does it fit with the AVU's Vision/Mission
- Does it fit with the AVU's Strategic Objectives
- Does it fit with the instructions from the BOD to target specific areas
- What AVU (ODeL Initiative/DL) resources are available?
- Key Partnerships – who do we work with?

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The AVU OER Architecture

- Current OER initiatives at the AVU
 - Development Gateway OER topic page
 - MIT/OCW materials
 - WiderNet - eGranary
 - COL STAMP materials
 - TESSA Program Materials
 - IIEP (UNESCO) online forum
 - AVU Digital Library
 - Others (see matrix)

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Goal

- To unite under one strategy, “**the OER Architecture**”, the efforts of organizations involved in increasing access to and the quality of higher education in Africa through the OER movement

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The AVU OER Architecture

- **Rationale**
 - to ensure the **rational and coordinated expansion** of the OER movement in Africa
 - to **find synergy** among the efforts of organizations currently involved in OER movement
 - to **avoid duplication** of efforts and resource utilization wherever possible
- **Focus**
 - The four elements of Open Educational Resources
 - Creation
 - Organization
 - Dissemination
 - Utilization


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The AVU OER Architecture

- **Areas of activity:** The AVU OER strategy identifies six areas of activity (or 'scaffolding') that support the above elements:
 1. Capacity Enhancement,
 2. Sensitization,
 3. Technological Infrastructure,
 4. Policy,
 5. Research, and
 6. Collaboration

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The AVU OER Architecture



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Establishing a Trajectory for OERs in Africa

- Need for OER **sensitization**
- Insufficient **technological infrastructure**
- Need for **capacity enhancement** in OERs
- Lack of **institutional policies** and structures governing OERs
- Further opportunities for **Research** are required

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The AVU OER Strategy

- The AVU OER strategy identifies six areas of activity (or 'scaffolding') that support the above elements:
 - **Sensitization**
 - Advocacy, Communications, Marketing materials, VCC (Nov 2006), OER Conference Nov 2007), eLearning Africa Conference (May 2007), TESSA Widen Group, Press & Media (BBC Trust)
 - **Technological Infrastructure**
 - AfDB ODeL Centres, PfHE Bandwidth Initiative, SchoolNet(s), AUF (Campus Numérique),
 - **Capacity Enhancement**
 - Workshops, ACEP, web seminars, TESSA Curriculum Group
 - F(L)OSS

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The AVU OER Architecture

- **Policy**
 - Analysis of Institutional and National policy environments/frameworks, ICT Policy, Open, Distance and eLearning (ODeL) Policy, Strategic Planning
- **Research**
 - IIEP, OECD, Hewlett OER community, AVU Sabbatical Posts, Uni of Pretoria, UWC, OU TESSA Research agenda (OUT *et al*)
- **Collaboration**
 - Consortia approach to Program Development, Communities of Practice, sharing good practice, Cross Border accreditation, Communities of Innovation

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The AVU OER Architecture

- **The OER Matrix:** The purpose of developing an Open Educational (OER) Matrix is twofold:
 1. to create a coherent representation of the **current** Open Educational Resources initiatives in Africa
 2. to provide a solid foundation for coordinating **future** efforts and activities that will support the sustainable and effective expansion of OERs in Africa
 3. Note that the matrix was originally devised in Nov 2005

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The AVU OER Architecture

- 'Activity Sets' arising from the Matrix:

| Element | Scaffold | Collaboration | Sensitization | Capacity Enhancement | Technological Infrastructure | Policy development | Research |
|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Creation | | | | | | | |
| Organization | | | | | | | |
| Dissemination | | | | | | | |
| Utilization | | | | | | | |

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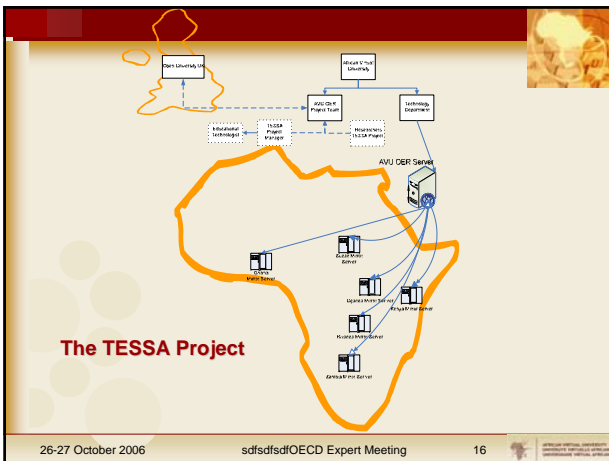
The AVU OER Architecture

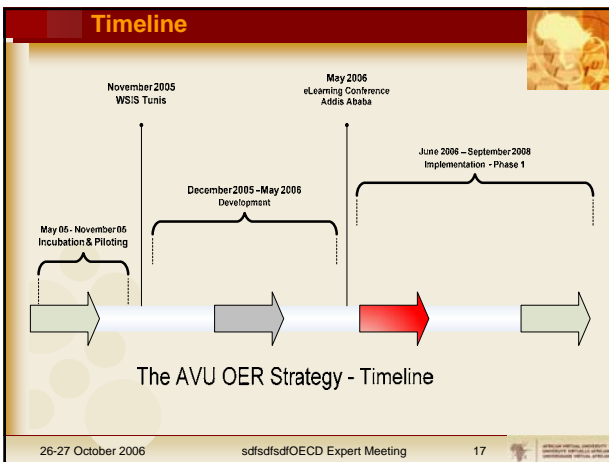
| Element/Scaffold | Collaborations | Sensitization | Capacity Enhancement | Technological Infrastructure | Policy development | Research |
|----------------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCW Consortium Website Univ. Western Cape (AVOR) Meraka Institute OECD AVU/HP COL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAIDIE AVU/MT OCW AVU/OER Matrix COL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum on OERs - HEP UNESCO UNECA - Open@frica | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sakai Project Univ. Western Cape SAIDIE AVU/HP Commonwealth of Learning MIT-OCW Meraka Institute | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum on OERs - IEP UNESCO AVU (AFUNET) UNECA (PICTA) COL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADEA (WGDEOL Conference) Meraka Institute Univ. Western Cape (AVOR) |
| Dissemination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCW Consortium Website UNECA (PICTA) ACIAA Sakai Project UNU (AFUNET) MIT-OCW CC-RSA (LINK Wits Univ.) eLearning Conference (Addis Ababa) Forum on OERs - IEP UNESCO OECD ADEA (WGDEOL, Biennale Conference) AVU COL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSIR- Meraka Inst. Commonwealth of Learning CC-RSA (LINK Wits Univ.) eLearning (Addis Ababa) Development Gateway ADEA (Bi-Annual Conference) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDRC CSIR Meraka Inst. UNECA (PICTA) Utah State - COSL eLearning (Addis Ababa) AVU (ACEP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AVU/OER Centres AVU/MT OCW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNECA (PICTA) CC-RSA (LINK Wits Univ.) Forum on OERs - IEP UNESCO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OECD Hewlett |
| Utilization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Univ. Western Cape (KEWL) Model Sakai Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSIR- Meraka Inst. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDRC CSIR Meraka Inst. ACIAA AVU (ACEP) COL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNU (AFUNET) Meraka Institute AVU (OER Centres, VSAT installation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSIR Meraka Inst. ACIAA CC-RSA (LINK Wits Univ.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mindset ADEA (WGDEOL Conference) |
| Creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TESSA Project (AVU/OUKUP) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNU (AFUNET) COL Mindset Paradigm Initiative AVU/TESSA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sakai Project AVU Biomedical Consortium Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Copyright & Access to Information Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDRC Mindset |

AVU OER Portal

- Key element of the AVU OER strategy is the **OER/TESSA Portal**
- The Portal can be envisaged as a series of 'modules' that seamlessly interlink to form a complete "Do It Yourself" (DIY) OER environment for the novice and the experienced practitioner.
- Through the **modular approach** to OER Portal development and implementation the Portal will support the **creation, organization, dissemination and utilization** of OERs
- See paper for more details

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- Incubation Phase
- Gap Analysis
 - MIT/OCW Pilot
 - AVU / PI Consortium meetings
 - AVU / Stakeholder Consultative meetings
 - WSIS – AVU OER Roundtable discussions
 - This Phase is Complete
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Development Phase

- Development of an **OER Strategic Plan** for higher education in Africa:
 - Research, Investigation and Collaboration with OER partners (Communications Strategy)
 - AVO OER Strategy formulated
 - Work Plan Budget/Funding Staffing (internal/external)
 - eLearning Conference (Addis)
 - AVU OER Seminar
 - Complete but under **constant review**

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Implementation Phase

- Activity 1:
 - Implement the OER Architecture **Sensitization Strategy**
- Activity 2:
 - Organize the **Vice Chancellors' Conference** in Nairobi, Kenya - November 2006
- Activity 3:
 - Implement the AVU **OER Research** Agenda
- Activity 4:
 - Implement the AVU **OER portal**
- Activity 5:
 - Establish a dynamic Collection of quality **African OERs**
- Activity 6:
 - Design and implement a "**Knowledge Series**" for OERs in support of Open, Distance and eLearning in Africa.

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Implementation Phase

- Activity 7:
 - Design and implement a conference for **OER practitioners** in Africa
- Activity 8:
 - Facilitate **training workshops** to enhance capacity in the creation, and utilization of OERs for higher education in Africa.
- Activity 9:
 - **Conference** and **Workshop** Participation.
- Activity 10:
 - Project **Administration, Reporting, Evaluation and Review**

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