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Reviewer 1

Review: OER as a certain solution for uncertain times: A reflection on the initiatives



undertaken in Morocco during the covid-19 period

Lena Tichy

Once this review has been read, press "Confirm" to indicate that the review process may proceed. If the reviewer has submitted their review elsewhere, you may upload the file below and then press "Confirm" to proceed.

Completed: 2023-03-28 04:57 PM

Recommendation: Revisions Required

1 - Self-evaluation report

As reviewer, please provide a self-evaluation report, in as many words as you see fit, which includes your perspective (your values and worldviews in relation to education and research at the time of the review of the article) and also if you wish your reasons for having chosen to review the article.

*

My current work focuses on supporting teachers at my university in the adoption and production of OER, through the use of OEP. My knowledge about OER production, and the barriers to the adoption of OER, has so far been largely contained to the Global North, and I was grateful for the opportunity to broaden my perspective through the research done by the authors.

Your expertise in relation to the topic of the article.

4 - Fairly confident

2 - Scientific dimensions

Does the content presented address important issues within the field of Open Education research and/or offer ideas for practice improvement ?

*

5 - Moderately agree

Is the contribution consistent throughout the different parts of the article ? *

i.e. is there deep alignment ?

3 - Neither disagree nor agree

Are aims clearly stated ? *

4 - Slightly agree

If this is a reflexive article, are the foundation and positionality of the author clearly stated ? *

3 - Neither disagree nor agree

If this is an empirical article, is the theoretical foundation clearly stated and justified ? *

3 - Neither disagree nor agree

If this is a practice-based article, is the praxis (theory and practice) foundation clearly stated and justified ? *

7 - Not applicable

If this is a research article, is the main research question clearly stated? *

7 - Not applicable

If this is a research article, is the research methodology and design appropriately chosen and rigorously implemented ?

*

7 - Not applicable

If this is a research article, are findings clearly described and backed with robust analysis and interpretation ?

*

7 - Not applicable

Are conclusions and interpretations presented clearly and justified? *

4 - Slightly agree

If instruments are used (e.g. survey, interview form, etc.), are they available in the appendices? *

- Yes for all of them
- No for none of them
- Some are available
- Not applicable

If this is a research article, and if there is a dataset, is it openly accessible (i.e. available from Zenodo)? *

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "scientific dimension" section :

3 - Tables, Figures and language

Are visual artefacts self-contained (i.e. without the text)? *

No

Do visual artefacts have an added value ? *

- No
 slightly
 Yes
 Not applicable

Is language an obstacle to understand the content ? *

- No
 Slightly
 Yes

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "Tables, Figures and language" section :

Figure 2 is not yet as useful as it could be. I have three suggestions:

-Firstly, include the full names of the faculties, as the abbreviations are not self-explanatory (for this reviewer, anyway)

-Secondly, in both the results (3) and discussion (4) section, include a reasoning for the differences between the faculties and links this to your recommendations, e.g. which faculties might be early OER adopters, given more support?

-Thirdly, I suggest that you remove the data about the different media categories here (to me, the breakdown by media type in Fig 3 is sufficient), and use the same colour for all the bars – makes for easier reading for everyone

Figure 3 is difficult to read/interpret for readers with visual impairments and the 3D pie chart is not ideal, my suggestion is to turn this into a bar chart, and remove the colours altogether

4 - Beneficiaries and impact

Are the beneficiaries of the content clearly stated ? *

i.e. for whom is the content of the article relevant (scholars, young researchers, citizens, decisions makers, etc.) ?

4 - Slightly agree

Is the potential impact of the content mentioned ? *

i.e. does the content of the article have societal impact beyond academic borders ?

- No
 Slightly
 Yes
 Not applicable

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "beneficiaries and impact" section :

5 - Overall feedback

Please provide your overall feedback to start a constructive discussion with the author so that he or she can improve the contribution.

*

I have found this article very interesting, and I am impressed by the various educational initiatives undertaken by the institutions mentioned here. However, I think the article would benefit from a clearer focus and a strengthened research question. For example, instead of asking «To which extent can we consider the online resources put in place by the university as OER?», it might be more interesting to ask: “How can the online resources put in place by the university be turned/transformed into OER in the specific context of UCA in Morocco?” and connect this more specifically to the suggestions outlined for Individuals/Organizations/Institutions in part 4 (Discussion).

This way, the qualitative data in part 3 (Results) can be put to much better use. I would for example suggest that the authors include a short discussion on the faculties which produced the most educational resources, and, if possible, give reasons for the disparities between the different faculties. In a second step, I would be interested to know whether the faculties which produced the most resources are also the ones which are in the best position to potentially produce OER (in terms of infrastructure, knowledge about open licensing, etc.).

This article makes some really important points about bridging the gap between distance learning/online resources and producing OER in the Moroccan educational context, and how to make online resources more open by applying the five Rs. To me, this focus and theme – the journey from distance learning initiatives to OER – should be stated more clearly at the outset. Otherwise, the article risks conflating distance learning and OER somewhat.

One article which might also be useful for further reading is Sunar, Yükseltürk & Duru (2022):
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/21582440221130299>

Reviewer 2

Review: OER as a certain solution for uncertain times: A reflection on the initiatives



undertaken in Morocco during the covid-19 period

Michele Notari

Once this review has been read, press "Confirm" to indicate that the review process may proceed. If the reviewer has submitted their review elsewhere, you may upload the file below and then press "Confirm" to proceed.

Completed: 2023-03-23 09:44 AM

Recommendation: Resubmit for Review

1 - Self-evaluation report

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*

I am a sociocunstructive educator and researcher focusing on the importance of a good scaffolding, openness and accessibilty of technology enhanced learning opportunities.
OE and OER are crucial next step to the education of today and tomorrow

Your expertise in relation to the topic of the article.

3 - Confident



Does the content presented address important issues within the field of Open Education research and/or offer ideas for practice improvement ?

*

3 - Neither disagree nor agree

Is the contribution consistent throughout the different parts of the article ? *

i.e. is there deep alignment ?

1 - Moderately disagree

Are aims clearly stated ? *

2 - Slightly disagree

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2 - Slightly disagree

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7 - Not applicable

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If this is a research article, are findings clearly described and backed with robust analysis and interpretation ?

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7 - Not applicable

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Are conclusions and interpretations presented clearly and justified? *

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.....
If this is a research article, and if there is a dataset, is it openly accessible (i.e. available from Zenodo)? *

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- No
- Not applicable

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "scientific dimension" section :

The article is well written.

It is a reflective article showing the situation in the country during pandemy and stressing the importance of having a good accessibility of the learning materials.

The accessibility to the Internet and the personal equipment sitll is a major issue to the argumentation line. The author state that many students did not have connectivity.. these circumstances should be part a more important of the considerations.

the authors target university education. Please mention that.

3 - Tables, Figures and language

Are visual artefacts self-contained (i.e. without the text)? *

Yes

.....
Do visual artefacts have an added value ? *

- No
- slightly
- Yes
- Not applicable

.....
Is language an obstacle to understand the content ? *

- No
- Slightly
- Yes

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "Tables, Figures and language" section :

Please add a description to the figure.

4 - Beneficiaries and impact

Are the beneficiaries of the content clearly stated ? *

i.e. for whom is the content of the article relevant (scholars, young researchers, citizens, decisions makers, etc.) ?

2 - Slightly disagree

Is the potential impact of the content mentioned ? *

i.e. does the content of the article have societal impact beyond academic borders ?

- No
- Slightly
- Yes
- Not applicable

Provide here any information you wish to bring to the attention of authors, related to your review of the "beneficiaries and impact" section :

description of the situation in the country during pandemy.

5 - Overall feedback

Please provide your overall feedback to start a constructive discussion with the author so that he or she can improve the contribution.

*

Well written article
Not so sure the argumentation lines are 100% convincing.