# *Piloting Employer Input into Curriculum Design through Open Educational Resources (OER)*

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**Employability: Addressing the Gulf between Academic, Student and Employer Perspectives**
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sore Support Centre for Open Resources in Education

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# The SCORE-funded project

Review and Endorsement of OERs by Graduate-Recruiting Employers - HumBox - Windows Internet Explorer

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## Review and Endorsement of OERs by Graduate-Recruiting Employers

### Description

Research on review and endorsement of Open Educational Resources (OERs) is being conducted using HumBox resources as part of an Open University SCORE Fellowship Project. The aims of this project, led by Antonio Martinez-Arboleda at the University of Leeds, are to explore and develop a feasible model for employer engagement in OERs and to add extra value to existing and future OERs, hence reinforcing our existing Communities of Practice and encouraging high-quality open content publication and re-use. In particular, the project will look at ways of facilitating the review and endorsement of OERs by graduate-recruiting employers in the HumBox, where a vast range of Arts and Humanities OERs of all levels of granularity have been uploaded and shared by an increasing number of practitioners. In connection with this project, Antonio is interested in proposing a more dynamic, case-based and multilateral approach to employability in the area of Arts in UK HE. In this respect, the review and endorsement of OERs by employers can play

Hum Box

# Employers as educational allies?

There are not sufficient exemplars of how to embed employable skills effectively in the curriculum in Arts and Humanities subjects.

The classic menu of essay, lecture, seminar and exam seems to be insufficient to deliver the skills that students need in order to become more skilled and responsible citizens in the global and interconnected 21st Century society.

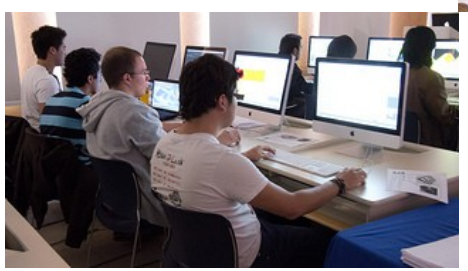
*The contextualisation of subjects provides particular opportunities for skills development and reflection; team project work, case study analysis, assessment through presentation and research tasks are all established pedagogies that contribute to generic skills development whilst, in parallel, developing the mindset skills associated with the subject studied.* (Wilson, 2012:32)

# Curricular Employability and Digital Engagement

Demands for Employability

Response by Institutions and Academics

Open and Public Engagement through OER



No channels for direct engagement

Dynamic, decentralised, case-based, multilateral and collaborative approach to employability in Arts and Humanities.

# Testing the hypotheses with academics

Critical discussion around the question of employer engagement in OER through review and endorsement in HumBox

Showcasing good practice

Educational value of engagement

The HumBox allows non-educational users to create "collections" made up of other users' resources and have a comment box for each resource

Primary data obtained from interviews to academic users of HumBox

OERs and OERs repositories as tools and channels for articulating the relationship between employers and academics

# Research with employers

1. Information on OERs and Project

2. Questions on curricular employability, contribution to HE, and involvement in OERs.

3. Resources reviewed.

4. Interview reflecting about the actual reviewing experience, the resources themselves, the possibility of publishing the resource, possible future engagement with OERs publishers and repositories.

5. Publication of reviews

# Some of the findings

Employable skills (life skills) in curriculum can be the subject of  educationally fruitful discussion between Academics and Graduate Recruiters.

The underlying relationship between Recruiters and Career Services can be pivotal in that digital partnership

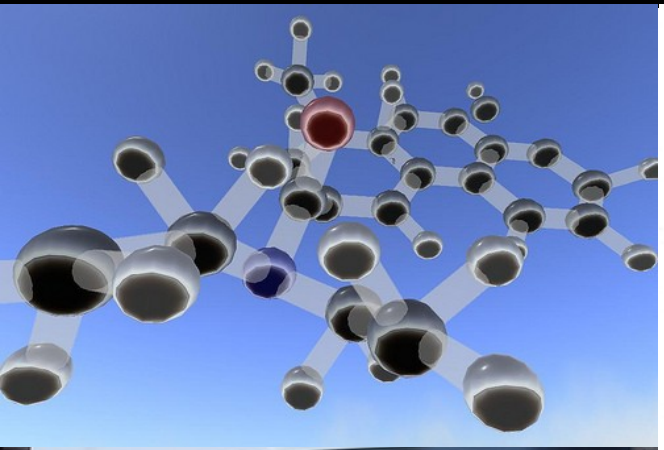
OER Reviewing and Endorsement in repositories can be the tool  but there is a variety of channels

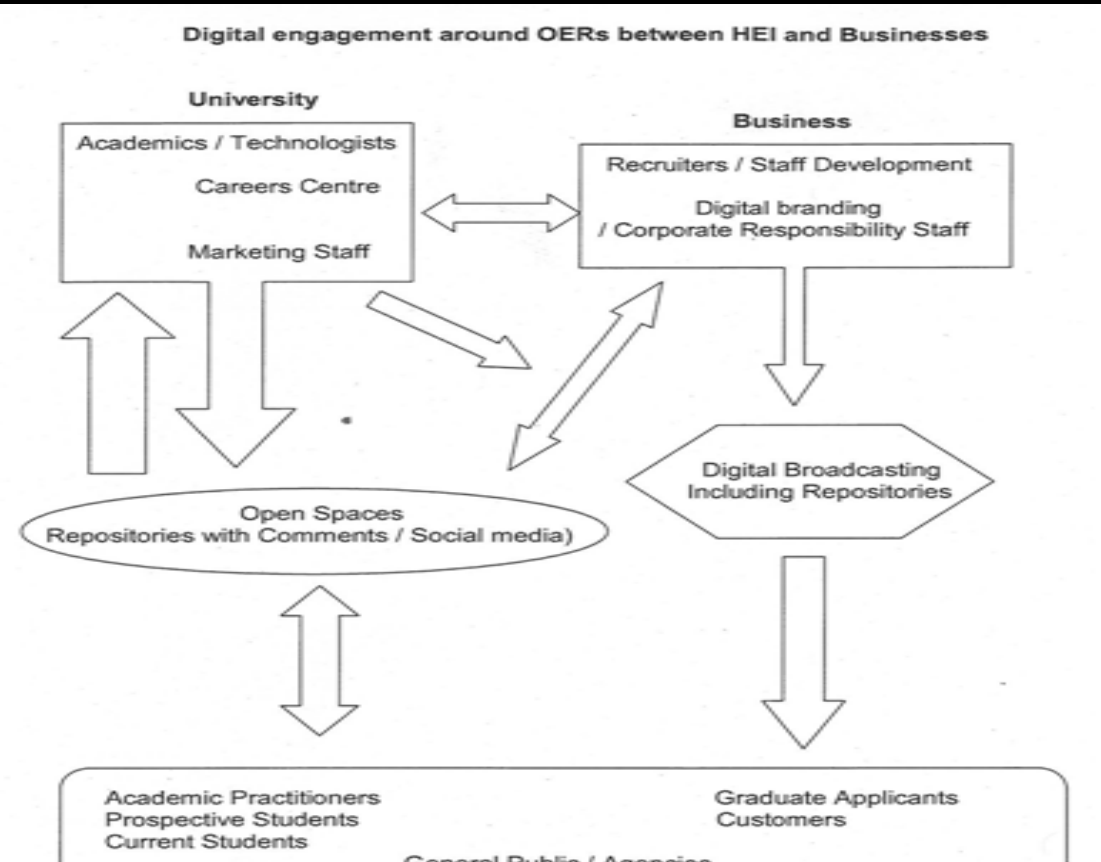
“Blended engagement” vs 100% Digital engagement

# Reflections: the symbiotic partnership

# Reflections: the synergetic partnership

# Reflections: the complex partnership





# Thanks, References and Attributions

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**Reference to First part of this SCORE Fellowship:** Martínez-Arboleda A. (2012) 'Review and endorsement of OER by graduate recruiting employers in the HumBox repository: the educational case in HE Arts and Humanities subjects' Proceedings of Cambridge 2012: Innovation and Impact – Openly Collaborating to Enhance Education, OCW Consortium and SCORE, Cambridge, UK, April 16–18 2012, Milton Keynes, The Open University, pp. 336-345, http://oro.open.ac.uk/33640/ (accessed 30 june 2012), ISBN978-0-7492-2937-5 [ebook].

**SCORE Fellowship Final Report** : http://www8.open.ac.uk/score/review-and-endorsement-oers-graduate-recruiting-employers-humbox

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