



**An inspiring collection
of free humanities
teaching resources**

**Hum
Box**



www.humbox.ac.uk



HumBox is a new way of storing,
publishing and sharing your
Humanities teaching resources
on the web.

You can upload things like seminar
activities, lecture slides, podcasts
and assignments and download
and adapt resources others
have deposited. It's all about
sharing ideas, approaches and
resources and saving you time.
Sharing made simple.

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Who's Involved?

HumBox is being developed collaboratively by four Higher Education Academy Subject Centres: English; History; Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies and Philosophical and Religious Studies. There are a dozen project partners in Humanities departments around the UK, leading the way in depositing resources. For HumBox to be a success, a community of Humanities lecturers will need to be actively involved in depositing and re-using their learning resources.

HumBox is part of the JISC and Higher Education Academy's Open Educational Resources (OER) Programme* funded by HEFCE. The OER Programme aims to make a wide range of learning resources created by academics freely available, easily discoverable and routinely re-used by teachers and learners.

Exploring Issues

The Humanities offer rich opportunities for sharing teaching resources both within and across disciplines, but until now they have lacked an effective means for doing so. As HumBox develops, a number of issues are being explored:

- Use of peer review and other methods to enhance the quality of resources
- Tools for easy browsing and retrieval
- The culture of sharing in the Humanities
- Copyright and intellectual property issues

What are 'Open Educational Resources'?

HumBox is a discipline-based collection of Open Educational Resources (OER). OERs are simply materials that you might use in teaching such as notes, reading lists, videos, assessments, podcasts, videos or images that are made freely available so that they can be discovered and re-used by others. The resources are released under an intellectual property licence that permits open use and adaptation. Other OER collections may be developed around institutions or individuals.

Why Use HumBox?

- Don't reinvent the wheel – if someone else has already developed a learning resource similar to what you need, then download and adapt it.
- Showcase your learning resources to the wider world in general and to colleagues and potential students in particular.
- Diversify your teaching repertoire – use approaches from your own and other subject areas to add variety to what you do.
- Enhance the reputation of your institution and UK higher education generally by showing what we have to offer
- Benefit from allowing others to extend and enhance the resources you develop

The title of the resource is shown and previewed in the main window.

Teaching resources can be browsed using tags and subject keywords.

A description of the resource will assist you in deciding whether it is suitable for your teaching needs.

The list of files that make up this resource are indicated here. This resource contains 2 videos and a PowerPoint presentation.

When a resource is deposited you can attach tags to indicate subject areas and teaching types.

The comments window allows users of the resource to comment about its usefulness.

The toolbox enables you to bookmark the resource and remix it with your own activities.

A Creative Commons licence shows you what you are allowed to do with the resource.

The author of the resource is clearly shown. Selecting the author will take you to their profile page.

The screenshot shows a digital resource management interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, BROWSE, FAQS, and ABOUT, along with a search bar. The main content area displays a video thumbnail titled "Supporting students: motivation (Resource)". The thumbnail shows a woman sitting at a desk in an office setting, with a globe and books in the background. Below the thumbnail, there's a preview window showing the first few seconds of the video. To the right of the video, there's a red rectangular box containing text: "UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS", "motivation", "Linguistics and Area Studies", and "University of Leeds". Below the video, there's a section titled "Attached Files" which lists three files: "Participat...age_class.mov" (Video (QuickTime), 89Mb), "Motivation...._Students.mov" (Video (QuickTime), 50Mb), and "MOTIVATION...._ARBOLEDA.ppt" (Microsoft PowerPoint, 276Kb). To the right of the files, there's a "Description" section with text about the resource being a powerpoint presentation and videos for new language tutors. Below that is a "Resource Metadata" table with columns for From, Added, Tags, Languages, Attribution, Downloads, and Copyright. The "From" row shows "Ms Alison Dickens" and "24 Jul 2009 12:25". The "Tags" row shows "Ukoe" and "English". The "Attribution" row shows "Antonio Martinez-Arboleda". The "Downloads" row shows "0". The "Copyright" row shows a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license logo. At the bottom of the page is a "Toolbox" section with various icons for sharing and remixing, and a status message "Internet | Protected Mode: On".

FAQs

What kind of teaching resources are you interested in?

HumBox collects all kinds of teaching resources as long as they are in digital form. The list includes such things as: activity sheets, handouts, lecture slides, videos, podcasts, multimedia, online quizzes, seminar activities, assignments and assessments.

Where will the resources come from?

The resources will come from Humanities lecturers who upload their materials to the collection from an easy-to-use interface.

I'd like to deposit a resource but I'm not sure about copyright clearance on images/video?

Copyright is an important issue and HumBox has a copyright consultant working on this. If you are unsure on any issues, please contact a Subject Centre or a partner (see overleaf.)

Will anyone really be interested in my course handouts?

Research has shown that your colleagues appreciate the ability to compare and use other teaching materials and teaching approaches. Another person's handout can be useful as a source of inspiration or as a starting point even if it can't be used 'off the shelf'.

My learning materials are context-specific does that matter?

No. Part of the process of developing HumBox is gaining a better understanding of what is shareable and what info needs to be removed and retained.

Could other teachers pass off my resources as their own?

No. All resources will contain a Creative Commons licence enabling use or modification of the original version of your work but they must always attribute you as the author.

Will there be quality standards for HumBox?

HumBox will include information about who has deposited a resource. Different models of quality assurance, including peer review, will be explored as HumBox develops.

I have some resources you might like, what should I do?

Until January 2010, deposits should be made through one of the HumBox partners in a Humanities department or through your Subject Centre. Addresses are provided on the back of this pamphlet.

When will the collection be fully available to the wider community?

HumBox will be officially launched early in 2010 and then anyone will be able to deposit or download resources.

How do I get involved?

- Visit HumBox www.humbox.ac.uk and use the facility on the site to give some feedback
- If you want to offer resources, contact a partner or a Subject Centre (see below)
- Visit the HumBox pages on your Subject Centre's website (see below) to find out more
- Tell your colleagues about HumBox!



Contacts

Subject Centres:

Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS)

Web: www.llas.ac.uk

Email: llas@soton.ac.uk

English Subject Centre

Web: www.english.heacademy.ac.uk

Email: esc@rhul.ac.uk

Subject Centre for History

Web: www.historysubjectcentre.ac.uk

Email: HEAHHistorysubjectcentre@warwick.ac.uk

Subject Centre for Philosophy and Religious Studies (PRS)

Web: www.prs.heacademy.ac.uk

Email: enquiries@prs.heacademy.ac.uk

Partners:

English Literature, Language & Creative Writing

- Billy Brick – Faculty of Business Environment and Society, *Coventry University*
b.brick@coventry.ac.uk
- Louise Holmwood Marshall & Will Slocombe – Department of English and Creative Writing, *Aberystwyth University*
lom@aber.ac.uk & wws@aber.ac.uk
- Mick Jardine – Department of English, Creative Writing and American Studies, *University of Winchester*
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History

- Robert O'Toole – Arts Faculty E-learning Advisor, *University of Warwick*
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- Michael Pidd – Humanities Research Institute, *University of Sheffield*
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Languages, Linguistics and Area studies

- Emmanuel Godin – School of Languages and Area Studies, *University of Portsmouth*
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- Sarah Hayes – School of Languages and Social Sciences, *Aston University*
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Philosophical & Religious Studies

- Deirdre Burke & Opinderjit Kaur Takhar – School of Law, Social Sciences and Communications, *University of Wolverhampton*
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- Hugh Pyper – Department of Biblical Studies, *University of Sheffield*
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More copies of this leaflet are available by emailing esc@rhul.ac.uk

*URL for OER Programme: www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/oer.aspx

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