



Infrastructure for Open Publishing of Curriculum Resources

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Opportunity

eCampusOntario is seeking expressions of interest from Ontario post-secondary institutions to design and assemble a prototype open education publishing infrastructure to provide system capacity and support a growing network of Ontario faculty and instructional developers who will begin to design, develop and deploy interactive open educational resources (OER) for teaching and learning.

Background

Support for the growth and expansion of online learning and teaching is central to the mandate of eCampusOntario and its members. The Government of Ontario has invested in the creation of online learning programs and courses at our universities and colleges, and has also provided funding for faculty and student support initiatives. Many of the initiatives we are supporting have proposed to develop open educational resources (OER).

Open Educational Resources are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation¹.

As our institutions develop open educational resources there is need to store, manage, and make the resources retrievable in multiple formats to support online use, print use, or direct use with computers and mobile devices. To prototype and support an initial storage and retrieval system, eCampusOntario has entered into an agreement with BCcampus, British Columbia's online learning agency. We will "clone and rebrand for Ontario" the existing open textbook site operating in British Columbia to provide a starter library and deployment system that will house over 150 peer-reviewed open textbooks. Along with the open textbook library, Ontario higher education users will also be able to participate in the peer review system. The initial cloned system will be available in May 2017.

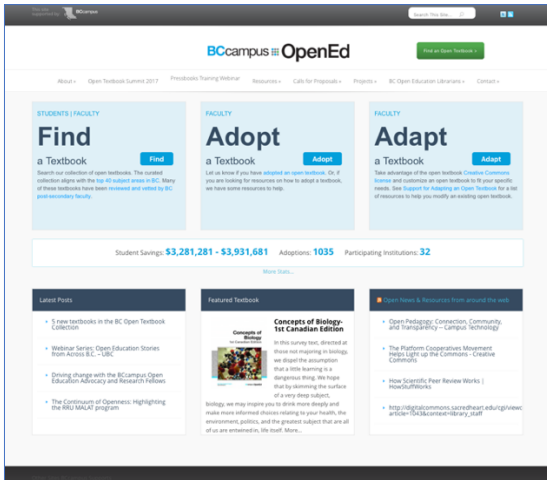
However, there are other key components of an open educational resource infrastructure that will need to be developed and deployed to provide system-wide open authoring and reuse capacity for Ontario faculty, instructors and institutions. An open education infrastructure for instructional materials publishing would provide the technical capability to enable local and/or federated access to open educational resource creation, editing, revising, and publishing. Ideally an open publishing infrastructure would also function as a resource for teaching and learning centres on post-secondary campuses.

¹ Hewlett Foundation (2016). Open educational resources. Retrieved from <http://www.hewlett.org/strategy/open-educational-resources/>

Concept

eCampusOntario would like to work with an Ontario post-secondary institution to design and assemble a prototype open education publishing infrastructure that would extend the capabilities of the existing BCcampus open textbook library by adding publishing and editing capabilities for new and existing OER, prior to review and deployment. The concept would be to add a new layer to an existing open textbook library system to enable collaborative authoring and publishing, as well as test the capability for adding interactive instructional elements to the resources.

Exists in BC and will be available in Ontario in May 2017 (BCcampus example)



Collaborative authoring capabilities need to be added later in 2017 (OER Commons example)



We are interested in receiving expressions of interest for the concept described.

Submissions must satisfy the following criteria:

- The primary focus of the proposed prototype would be to integrate collaborative editing and publishing functions, as well as storage capabilities to an existing open textbook library using primarily open source technologies;
- The institution and the project leads must be committed to an agile and iterative development process focused on early results and successive rounds of testing and improvement;
- The institution and project leads must demonstrate a clear willingness to share and transfer knowledge to other post-secondary institutions, as well as share knowledge with partner institutions such as BCcampus;
- The proposed prototype must have the potential to be adapted for use in/at other post-secondary programs and institutions, or through an Ontario system agency that might potentially host the system for all users.

Institutions interested in participating must complete and submit the attached form to projects@ecampusontario.ca no later than **16:30 on March 10, 2017**. Please use the text boxes in the submission form to include a brief summary in response to each question. Background documents can also be submitted as appendices to this document. Please email any questions to Lena Patterson at lpatterson@ecampusontario by Monday, March 6.

eCampusOntario will review the EOIs submitted, and invite an institution to work with it on the prototyping process. by 16:30 on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Project Title			
Contact Name			
Institution			
Telephone #		Email	

Expressions of Interest will be assessed based on responses provided below according to the weighting provided.

1. Provide a brief description of the approach you would propose to employ to integrate collaborate editing, publishing, and storage functions to an existing open textbook library (e.g. BCcampus open textbook library) using primarily open source technologies. Articulate your vision for the concept proposed **(40%)**.

150 – 200 words

2. Describe how you would approach the development process, the open source tools you would contemplate using, the partners you would consult, and the resources you would require to take on this project **(30%)**.

150 - 200 words

3. Describe how you would propose to communicate the development process to colleague institutions, and how you would ultimately see the knowledge transfer taking place to make the open publishing system a provincial resource (30%).

150 – 200 words

4. Please add any attachments you believe are relevant to support your expression of interest. Please list and provide a brief summary or description of those attachments.

100 words