THE ITERATIVE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN CURATION AND EVALUATION IN AN OPEN RESEARCH PROJECT: A UTILIZATION-FOCUSED APPROACH


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The iterative engagement between curation and evaluation in an open research project:

A utilization-focused approach

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Curation in research

- Curation of research – usually commercial e.g. journal articles; book chapters
- Move towards researching in the open:
  - practice of releasing interim or draft outputs, early data sets and project planning documents during the course of project activity
- Change in **types** of research products being shared and **when** as well as **ways of engaging** with these research products
The case of ROER4D: Research on OER for Development

- In what ways, and under what circumstances can the adoption of OER address the increasing demand for accessible, relevant, high-quality and affordable education and what is its impact in the Global South?

- Researching in the open

in the Global South
ROER4D Objectives

1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. **Curate output as open content**
1. Build an empirical knowledge base on the use and impact of OER in education
2. Develop the capacity of OER researchers
3. Build a network of OER scholars
4. Communicate research to inform education policy and practice
5. Curate output as open content

Using Utilization Focused Evaluation (UFE) supported by DECI-2
UFE in 12 steps:

1. Assessing program readiness
2. Assessing evaluator readiness
3. Identifying primary intended users
4. Situational analysis
5. Identification of primary intended uses
6. Focusing the evaluation
7. Evaluation design
8. Simulation of use
9. Data collection
10. Data analysis
11. Facilitation of use
12. Meta evaluation

Steps in the Utilization Focused Evaluation (UFE) process
Curation in the ROER4D project

Outputs from the project:

Open approach has a considerable influence on the curation strategy and how it is shaped.
Curation in the ROER4D project

Open approach has a considerable influence on the curation strategy and how it is shaped.
# Curation platforms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Capabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content Management System (Sakai - Vula)</strong></td>
<td>Long-term, private and secure storage of project document drafts, raw data and confidential/internal documentation</td>
<td>Security Privacy Long term curation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open access repository (OpenUCT)</strong></td>
<td>Long-term, open access to project outputs and linked data</td>
<td>Security Metadata Accessibility Long-term curation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curation spaces:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. FigShare, Zenodo</td>
<td>Short to medium-term access to:</td>
<td>Security Various levels of metadata Broader accessibility Short to medium-term curation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. SlideShare</td>
<td>1. Project outputs and linked data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cloud-based Collaboration Platform</strong></td>
<td>Collaborative creation and editing of documents; sharing of interim documents and documents under development</td>
<td>Accessibility Ease-of-use Simultaneous creation, editing and commenting on documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Evaluating curation in ROER4D

"Openness" principle

Commitment to undertake "open research"

Curation strategy

UFE approach

Evaluation plan
Extract from ROER4D evaluation plan for curation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use(s)</th>
<th>KEQ(s)</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>What will measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>5.1.1 How well is our own research curated in order to be shared?</td>
<td>Measure against the e.g. Digital Curation Centre’s (DCC) standards of best practice: Checklist for data management plan, etc.</td>
<td>Process of curation of documents and data against checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- better curate the content.</td>
<td>5.1.2 Where is the research that has been curated and shared getting the most hits?</td>
<td>Monitor curation spaces to gather views and downloads data</td>
<td>e.g. From the OpenUCT publically available statistics: Views and downloads</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ensure ROER4D is using the best metadata standard across outputs.</td>
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Objective 5: Curate output as open content (outputs = documents and data)
Lessons Learnt: Opportunities & Challenges

- **Opportunities**
  - **Transparency & Adaptability:**
    - Open and inclusive team dynamics
    - Capitalising on new insights
  - **Reciprocity:**
    - Connections between curation and communication work and its evaluation
  - **Accessibility, Adaptability & Discoverability:**
    - Multiple platforms and outputs
    - Evaluation can inform which platforms are the adequate

- **Challenges**
  - **Readiness & Adaptability:**
    - When to be open
    - Evaluation needs to adapt to a changing curation strategy
  - **Cohesiveness:**
    - Across platforms
    - Within the evaluation plan
  - **Vulnerability/Instability:**
    - 3rd-party platforms
    - Extract analytics data regularly
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Curation Platform</th>
<th>Platform Function</th>
<th>Relevant KEQs</th>
<th>Evaluation measures</th>
<th>Uses for the evaluation results</th>
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<td>5.1.1 How well is our own research curated in order to be shared? 5.1.2 Where is the research that has been curated and shared getting the most hits?</td>
<td>Measure against the e.g. DCC standards of best practice Available statistics: Views and downloads</td>
<td>- better curate the content.  - ensure ROER4D is using the best metadata standard across outputs.  - determine if it is productive to produce multiple formats of outputs  - ensure cohesion across platforms.</td>
</tr>
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Evaluating curation in ROER4D

- "Openness" principle
- Commitment to undertake "open research"

Curation platforms and their functions; uses for evaluation data

UFE approach

Evaluation plan

KEQs and evaluation measures
Further reading:


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