

Capturing context, conversations and curricula: Jorum, paradata and the Learning Registry

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Openness in UK Higher Education

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Talking content where content ain't king

A bit of background

- Like public and academic libraries, educational content sharing services are necessary infrastructure for education, but this is not what we're here for today. What might be useful today is to ask:



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- Like public and academic libraries, educational content sharing services are necessary infrastructure for education, but this is not what we're here for today. **What might be useful today is to ask:**



How can our infrastructure provide data to assist with building tools and applications to support, inform and enrich open educational practices?

Jorum

A National Service for Sharing Open Educational Resources

- Jorum is a UK national OER service to UK Higher and Further Education.
- Anyone in UK HE/FE can share their CC-licensed OER via Jorum.
- Others with OERs that may be of use to UK HE/FE can share too.
- Anyone in the world can see, download and use OERs held in Jorum.

JISC



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What motivates people to share?

- A number of things: but the satisfaction of knowing we are having an impact is a big one.

What motivates people to seek?

- Knowing they will find something reliable, something of use to them.

UNESCO Guidelines for OERs in Higher Education

“The transformative educational potential of OER depends on:

1. Improving the quality of learning materials through peer review processes;
2. Reaping the benefits of contextualisation, personalisation and localisation; [...]”

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002136/213605e.pdf>

- There are seven more points listed, but these first two have been crucial unfulfilled opportunities for educational technologists for over a decade.
- They present challenges in abundance to those creating the technical infrastructure for global capture, sharing and use of learning resource data.

How do we ...

- Understand the impact our contribution is making, locally, nationally, globally?
- Know where to seek content, ideas, tools of acceptable quality **for our context?**
- Improve the quality of our content, our practice, our learning?



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How do we ...

- Understand the impact our contribution is making, locally, nationally, globally?

- Know when we are providing acceptable quality **for our community**

- Improve the way we are **collecting, sharing and understanding data about contexts, conversations and curricula** our learning?

collecting, sharing
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curricula

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Sharing Paradata:

Usage, Activity & Curriculum Data

“[...] not just quantitative metrics (e.g., how many times a piece of content was accessed), but also pedagogic context, as inferred through the actions of educators and learners.

“[...] Learning resource paradata is generated through user processes of searching for content, identifying interest for subsequent use, correlating resources to specific learning goals or standards, and integrating content into educational practices.”-- **Wikipedia:**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradata>



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- With these challenges in mind, the US-based Learning Registry aims to enable capturing and sharing data about how and where teachers and learners use resources and what they think of them, or paradata.
- The project is technical and experimental, with an active international community working on use cases, specifications and pilot implementations.
- The Learning Registry is a notional technical infrastructure using open specifications and software to support networks for sharing data.
<http://learningregistry.org>

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The JLeRN Experiment

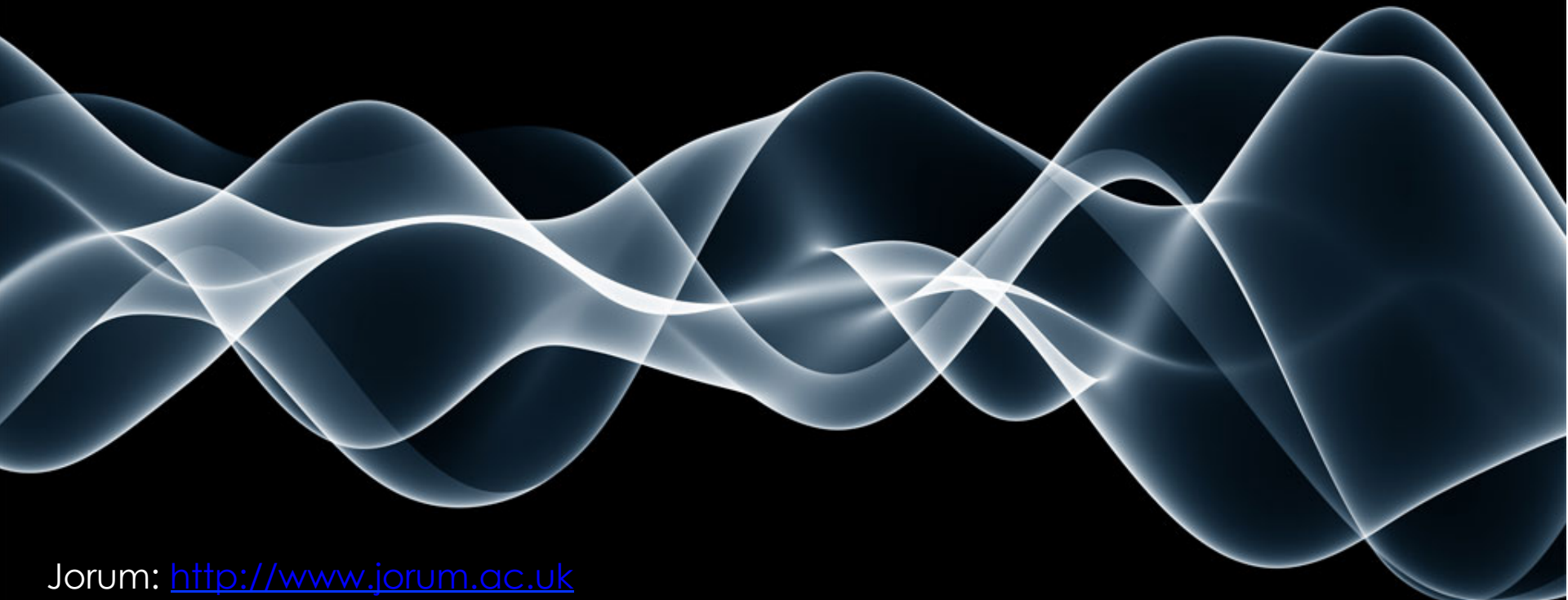
JISC's Learning Registry Node Experiment at Mimas

Jorum and the JLeRN Experiment

A formal service and an experimental project

- Jorum and Jorum's users all want to understand the impact of OERs shared via Jorum.
- We have a formal service enhancement under way to collect, store and openly expose statistics and other paradata about OERs shared via Jorum.
- We are working with the JLeRN Experiment, a short-term exploration of the Learning Registry, also based at Mimas and funded by JISC.





Jorum: <http://www.jorum.ac.uk>

Jorum's enhancements projects:

<http://www.jorum.ac.uk/blog/post/48/it-s-all-coming-together-jorum-s-2012-summer-of-enhancements>

The Learning Registry: <http://learningregistry.org>

The JLeRN Experiment: <http://jlernexperiment.wordpress.com/>

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