



Digital Open Textbooks for Development

Case Study Interview Schedule

Interview 1 of 2 (2019)

1. Why do you want to make your teaching content available in an open textbook?

2. In what ways are you thinking about issues relating to social justice and decolonising the curriculum in your teaching materials within the open textbook you are developing?

Cultural

3. What is your impression of UCT's institutional culture with regards to the philosophy of openness and making educational resources freely available?

- Are your reasons for creating an open textbook related to your peers, department or the institution?
- To what extent are your colleagues aware of the practice of creating open textbooks?
- Are your colleagues aware that you are busy creating/developing an open textbook?
- In your opinion, do you feel your colleagues will or do value open educational resources/open textbooks?

4. Are there any gender-related inequities (either in the home or institutional context) which might influence your students' access to learning resources?

- Are there any other cultural dynamics that influence your students' access to learning resources? (as related to race, ethnicity, religion, etc)?
- Do you have a sense of which languages other than English your students converse in? Do you feel that this is a barrier to their understanding of course materials?

5. What are the conventions in your discipline regarding prescribed textbooks, course-pack readings and suggested readings?

- What percentage of the learning materials you use in your classroom are developed for your context?
- Do you feel there is a predominant racial profile in the materials you are using in your classroom?
- Where are most of the images in the teaching materials you create drawn from?
- Do you pay attention to copyright when selecting images?

Political

6. What is the process that goes into selecting textbooks in your department?

- Has this been contentious in the past? If so, why/how?

Structural

7. Do you intend to update your open textbook on an ongoing basis?

- If so, how frequently do you envision this being possible?
- How much time, effort and technical ability will the updates require?
- Do you feel that materials that are out of date will deter the sharing and use of open textbooks?

8. Have you used, or are you considering using, students to either create or update content in the textbook?

- Do you think there are any risks in a student-centred content creation approach?

9. In what ways does working with an open textbook influence your pedagogical approach?

- What audience did you have in mind when you designed your materials?
- How difficult or easy was it to design or adapt your materials for an open textbook?
- To what extent is your open textbook integrated into your classroom activities?

10. In what ways are quality issues addressed in the production of open textbooks?

- Do you have any concerns about your materials not being ready for public sharing and reuse?
- What quality assurance steps have you taken, and in what ways (if any) has this feedback improved the quality of your resource?

- What support or services do you feel the institution could offer you in integrating a quality assurance aspect into your open textbook?

11. Is promotion at UCT is skewed towards recognising research outputs more than production of textbooks or teaching resources? If so, to what extent does this influence your practice?

- There is currently no coordinated institutional strategy aimed at promoting or supporting open textbook production. What impact do you think this would have on your open practice?
- In the light of the many roles you play (with regards to research, teaching, administration and social responsiveness) which is the most important?
- What factors might hinder the university from adopting a coordinated institutional approach aimed at promoting or supporting open textbook production?

Agency

12. What are your concerns in life? What motivates you to get out of bed?

- How do you act on these concerns and include them in your life projects and practices?
- Are there aspects of your context that hinder the achievement of your goals and how do you deal with them?
- Do you feel that sharing your teaching materials fits in or is at odds with your life concerns/motivations, and in what ways?

This interview schedule was developed in 2019 by the Digital Open Textbooks for Development (DOT4D) project at the University of Cape Town as part of its open textbook research process. This interview examines authors' motivations for developing open textbooks, their envisioned content development plans in terms of authorship approach and student involvement, as well as envisioned approaches towards publishing, quality assurance, sustainability, and copyright and licensing. It was part 1 of 2 interviews.

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