



UNESCO Chair in Open Education Year 1 Report

**[Summary] report prepared by:
Dr. Tel Amiel, Chairholder**

This document highlights the activities and outputs of the UNESCO Chair in Open Education at the University of Campinas (Brazil) during its first year of formal activities (December 2014-December 2015). Listed below are the major activities and accomplishments for Year 1. We finalize by presenting a table showing the proposed activities and the actions that were undertaken.

Launching of the Chair

The Chair was officially inaugurated on December 11, 2014 during an open and live-streamed ceremony¹ at the university. Dr. Celso Costa, ex-rector of the Open University of Brazil was invited as a guest lecturer. Mr. Adauto Soares, C&I/UNESCO director for Brazil, discussed UNESCO's goals regarding Open Educational Resources and Open Education, and presented the overall goals of the program. Dignitaries from the University were present to discuss the importance of this initiative to UNICAMP.

Awareness and dissemination

Completed an overhaul of our site (www.educacaoaberta.org), so that it may focus on the UNESCO Chair and its activities.

As part of this re-organization, created an Open Data portal, based on open and free software and open formats, to share the output of our research². The aim was to be able to provide tabular data used and presented in articles and reports, but also data which the research group has created and collected but not analyzed, which may be of use to others.

Formalized our research network at the national database of research groups through the The National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq)³. This is an important measure, as it formalizes the network of researchers who cooperate with the Chair⁴ and makes our work visible both internally (to the University) and to funding agencies.

Hewlett Foundation mapping prototype

The proposal put forward by the UNESCO Chair, in partnership with other organizations, was one of three proposals accepted in early 2014 by the Hewlett Foundation to construct a mapping prototype for OER. Though the time for the production of the prototype was extremely limited, Tiago Soares⁵ and I conducted a wide investigation into OER repositories in Latin America as part of this project. The result is the MIRA project⁶, which had as a secondary goal, to provide visibility to often-ignored initiatives in OER (Latin America, Portuguese/Spanish). Once the prototype was complete, we continued our analysis of each repository (beyond the formal grant program) and produced a detailed analysis of licensing

1 For videos and photos of the event, see <http://educacaoaberta.org/inauguracao-catedra-unesco>

2 Open Data Portal: <http://dados.educacaoaberta.org>

3 The research group's page is: <http://dgp.cnpq.br/dgp/espelhogrupo/4993325342080893>

4 The group is constituted by researchers who formally collaborate with the Chair and have produced relevant work in its areas of focus. These now include researchers associated with different universities in Brazil: Prof. Celso Costa (UFF), Prof. Maria Renata da Cruz Duran (UEL), Prof. Airton Zancanaro (U. de Blumenau), and Thiago Soares (Doctoral Student, USP).

5 UNESCO Chair Associated Researcher

6 <http://mira.org.br>, conducted in partnership with Open Knowledge Brasil, Instituto Educadigital (Brazil) and Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL/Ecuador)

schemes, formats and systems used. With this, we were able to construct a panorama of K-12 focused initiatives in Latin America. The results of this analysis were initially presented to the Hewlett Foundation during the 2014 grantee's meeting and at the IV CBIE/LACLO conference to a Latin American audience; it has now been published in IRRODL⁷. All data compiled for this report is now available in the open data portal.

As part of our group's continued commitment to the OER Mapping project, the Chair was named the first “strategic partners” (South America) of the Phase II of the OER mapping project⁸, being conducted by HBZ (Germany). The Chairholder has collaborated by providing data and contacts, and contributing information in the form of “OER stories” to the map. The Chairholder is also the official contact for the OER map in Brazil.

As part of the MIRA project we produced a high quality short animation to explain the principles of open education and OER. This video is made available with Spanish, Portuguese, and English subtitles, with an open license and in an open format⁹, which is now heavily used in workshops and introductions to OE/OER in Brazil.

II WREA Workshop

The Chairholder co-organized the II Workshop on OER¹⁰ as part of the IV Brazilian Congress in Informatics and Education (CBIE) & X Latin American Conference on Learning Objects and Learning Technologies (LACLO)¹¹. A total of 12 full papers and 3 posters were accepted for presentation at the event, providing an opportunity for exchange of experiences between OER researchers from Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and Spain. The outputs of the conference are available with an open license online¹².

Bibliography on OER

Since 2013 we have maintained a listing of OER related academic publications in Portuguese, to assist researchers and others interested in the field. In partnership with Airton Zancanaro¹³, I conducted a much larger and systematic analysis of the bibliographic production expanding our reach to all portuguese speaking countries and open access journals. As a result, we compiled 100+ relevant openly accessible articles, reports, book chapters and proceedings on OER. Citations and summaries are openly available on our

7 <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/2426>

8 See: <http://oerworldmap.org>

9 Available at: http://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:%3ARecursos_Educacionais_Abertos.ogv

10 The II Workshop on OER (II WREA) page is: <http://riure.net/index.php/workshop-rea-cbie-2015>. The first Workshop (I WREA) was coordinated by the Chair during the same event, in 2012: <http://educacaoaberta.org/workshop>

11 Overall conference page: http://www.ic.ufal.br/evento/cbie_lacl02015

12 <http://www.br-ie.org/pub/index.php/wcbie>

13 UNESCO Chair Associated Researcher

site¹⁴ and other data (such as geographic distributions and thematic analysis) will be made available by early 2016. The analysis of this data has been presented at the II WREA (see above) and has been submitted for publication to an open journal.

In cooperation with the UNESCO Chair in OER (Athabasca, Canada) we are in the process of migrating this data to the new version of the OER Knowledge Cloud. This has been part of an effort to make the Cloud a multilingual site with cross-referencing of citations based on tags and keywords¹⁵. We have also discussed the possibility of integrating this large database with the OER World Map, a feature that is under study.

Open University of Brazil

We have expanded our work surrounding the Open University of Brazil (UAB). We are currently in Phase III of the research program, the result of a meeting at the University of Campinas (July 22-24, 2015) with researchers from four different institutions: Fluminense Federal University, State University of Londrina, University of Brasília and Univeristy of Campinas, as well as independent researchers. The group, which was formally organized in 2011¹⁶, has produced research on UAB focusing on the municipal centers (Phase 1), completed late 2013; and the production of resources, and their awareness of OER (under final write-up, Phase 2). Phase III is focused on the non-formal education aspects of UAB. The Chairholder is now supervising a post-doctoral student (2015-2016) who is acting as project coordinator for Phase III¹⁷.

As part of this project we are in discussions with CAPES (the federal agency responsible for UAB) regarding the launch of their new repository and a move to adopting an open license for resources produced by the 90+ higher education institutions within UAB.

As part of this research project a new site has been launched focused on explaining the functioning of UAB. It is an attempt to provide greater awareness and open data on this important public initiative¹⁸.

OER Publications

14 All data is available at: <http://educacaoaberta.org/biblio-rea> and a Zotero (<http://zotero.org/>) collaborative open/online group.

15 We have received interest in the inclusion of articles written in Spanish and will pursue this possibility once the Portuguese version is online.

16 Coordinated by Prof. Celso Costa at Fluminense Federal University in partnership with a research group at the University of Londrina coordinated by Prof. Maria Renata Duran.

17 The title of the research project is: *The role and potential of the University of Brazil municipal centers in the intersection of formal and non-formal education*.

18 Beta available at: <http://uab.educacaoaberta.org>. The site was developed using free and open source software and has involved the development of new code focused on mapping open data (by the Chairholder and a developer assistant). The code is available at: <https://github.com/tamielbr/Ciclope>.

In partnership with Prof. Maria Renata Duran¹⁹, and with the support of UNESCO Brazil, the Chairholder is currently editing a volume entitled “Technological utopias and dystopias in open and distance education”, which will be published simultaneously in English and Portuguese, featuring discussions and empirical work by Brazilian and foreign authors, on the relationship between Distance and Open Education. The book will be published late 2016/early 2017 by UFF.

Invited talks related to the Chair's activities

- “Collaborative production publication and use of shared resources in education” at the *OER Seminar: Challenges and perspectives in open education*, April 7, 2015 (Fiocruz, Rio de Janeiro – Brazil);
- “Open Education” in panel “Open data, citizen science and free/libre technologies” at the *XVI International Forum on Free/Libre Software (FISL)*, July 8-11, 2015 (Porto Alegre, RS – Brazil);
- “UNESCO Chair in Open Education” at the *International Symposium on Open Educational Resources: House of Representatives*, August 19, 2015 (Brasília, DF – Brazil);
- “UNESCO Chair in Open Education” at the *International Fórum ARede Educa*, August 20, 2015 (São Paulo, SP – Brazil);
- “Collaborative Learning” *VII International Congress on Adaptive and Accessible Virtual Environments*, September 8-11, 2015 (Novo Hamburgo, RS – Brazil);
- “Open Education” *guest lecture* at the Federal University of São Carlos, November 23, 2015 (Brazil);
- OER and Open Education at “Digital culture and innovation: Educational technology and mobile devices” at the *XII Brazilian Congress on Distance Higher Education (ESUD)*, November 30-December 3, 2015 (Brazil).

Presentations and papers

- Zancanro, A. & Amiel, T. (submitted). A produção acadêmica em língua portuguesa em torno de Recursos Educacionais Abertos ([The academic production on OER in Portuguese](#)).
- Amiel, T. & Soares, T. (in press). Identifying tensions in the use of open licenses in OER repositories. *International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning*. To be published at: <http://irrodl.org>
- Amiel, T., & Soares, T. (2015). O contexto da abertura: recursos educacionais abertos, cibercultura e suas tensões ([The context of openness: open educational resources, cyberculture and its tensions](#)). Em Aberto, 28(94), 109–122. <http://emaberto.inep.gov.br>
- Preface to *Formação Acadêmica e Práticas Profissionais Inovadoras* ([Academic development and innovative educational practice](#)) (2015), Dilce Elai de Vargas Gil

¹⁹ UNESCO Chair Associated Researcher

- Vicente, Monica Pagel Eidelwien (Eds.) Porto Alegre: Cidadela.
- Amiel, T., & Zancanaro, A. (2015). A produção acadêmica realizada em língua portuguesa sobre Recursos Educacionais Abertos: Um estudo bibliométrico (The academic output in portuguese regarding OER: A bibliometric study). In *Anais dos Workshops do Congresso Brasileiro de Informática na Educação* (pp. 918–927) <http://doi.org/10.5753/cbie.wcbie.2015.918>
 - Amiel, T., Duran, M. R. C., Costa, C. J. da, & Massaro, T. (2015). *Tinkering towards openness: Analyzing open practices and resources in the Open University of Brazil*. Presented at the International Council for Open and Distance Education Conference, Sun City, South Africa.
 - Amiel, T., & Soares, T. (2015). *Free or open? Investigating intellectual property rights and openness for OER repositories in Latin America*. Presented at the Open Education Global Conference, Banff, Canada. Retrieved from <http://conference.oiconsortium.org/2015/presentation/free-or-open-investigating-intellectual-property-rights-and-openness-for-oer-repositories-in-latin-america-2>
 - Amiel, T., Soares, T., & Ochoa, X. (2015). Creating a map for OER initiatives in Latin America. *Conferencias LACLO*, 5(1). Retrieved from <http://www.laclo.org/papers/index.php/laclo/article/view/286>
 - Duran, M. R. C., Amiel, T., Martins, E., & Costa, C. J. da. (2014). Modelos estruturais de gestão EaD nas instituições públicas de ensino superior do Brasil (Structural models for the management of distance education in public institutions of higher education in Brazil) (pp. 1–12). Presented at the Congresso Iberoamericano de Ciencia, Tecnología, Innovación y Educación, Buenos Aires: OEI. Retrieved from <http://www.oei.es/congreso2014>
 - Duran, M. R. C., Costa, C. J. da, & Amiel, T. (2014). The Open University System of Brazil: a study of learner support facilities in the northern, north-eastern and southern regions. *Policy Futures in Education*, 12, 221.
 - Amiel, T. (2014). Recursos Educacionais Abertos: uma análise a partir do livro didático de história (Open Educational Resources: An analysis based on the history textbook) *Revista História Hoje*, 3, 189–205.

Proposed areas of activity and corresponding actions for Year 1

| Proposed areas | Actions (Year 1) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awareness and networking | Website streamlined for Chair Open Data Portal launched Open publications portal (applied grant/in development) |
| Institutional policy | Discussions on opening up the resources at the Open University of Brazil (Federal government) |

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| | <p>Informal discussions with organizations (e.g. Alana Institute)</p> <p>Presentation at the House of Representatives on OER/OE</p> <p>Board member at Instituto Educadigital, responsible for OER-Brazil²⁰</p> |
| Development/Assembly | <p>II WREA proceedings made available online</p> <p>Professional animation/video introduction to Open Education/OER</p> <p>Site/software development for UAB project</p> <p>Deployment of the MIRA system (software/open data)</p> |
| Dissemination/promotion | <p>Invited talks and publications discussing OE/OER around Brazil and abroad</p> <p>Chairholder and associated researchers presenting at national/international conferences (LACLO/CBIE, Open Education Global, ICDE, OEI, etc.)</p> <p>Upcoming edited book on distance education/open education, and new book proposed</p> <p>Draft plan on new book about OER through UNESCO Brazil</p> |
| Capacity-building | <p>Updated open bibliography on OER from portuguese speaking countries</p> <p>Merger of bibliography data to OER Knowledge Cloud (under progress)</p> <p>Chairholder Joined the GO-GN²¹ as an advisor</p> |
| Funding | <p>Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) grant for development (Open</p> |

20 For more information, see :<http://www.educadigital.org.br/en/people>

21 More information at: <http://go-gn.net>

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| | <p>University of Brazil) – granted, but funds not dispensed²²</p> <p>Banco do Brasil grant for social technologies on OER (not awarded)²³</p> <p>Applied with multiple partners for Phase II of Hewlett Foundation mapping initiative (not awarded, currently strategic partner)</p> <p>Internal university grant to investigate and build online publishing platform (positively reviewed but not awarded due lack of funds)</p> |
| Observatory | <p>Complete mapping of K-12 initiatives in Latin America maintained through the MIRA project</p> <p>OER World Map strategic partnership and country champion</p> |

Final analysis

This first year has been focused on providing greater visibility to the Chair's activities. The Chairholder has worked to streamline and organize web-based channels for sharing activities, data, and research output.

The UNESCO Chair is largely the enterprise of the Chairholder and the group of associated researchers acting with the support of external funds and time donated in-kind. It has led to prolific output in diverse modes (content, software, data, and activities) which could be increased with greater support.

Development of resources, awareness and capacity-building, which are still a priority in Brazil, are often not projects of interest to international funding agencies. The financial crisis in Brazil brings a grim outlook for 2016 with a general scarcity of funds for research and development. This has and will limit our ability to propose of more ambitious projects, but also reduces significant activities such as travel to conferences and invited talks to raise awareness on OE/OER in more distant locations.

Still, the UNESCO Chair has quickly become a “node” or reference for discussions on OER in Brazil. We have worked to consolidate a small but prolific group of associated researchers

22 Projects written in partnership, leadership of UFF and UEL. Though the project was accepted, the funds will likely not be dispensed because of financial problems in Brazil, see: <http://capes.gov.br/images/stories/download/editais/resultados/2042015-edital-capes-uab-03-2015-Resultado-Preliminar.pdf>

23 Applied in partnership with Instituto Educadigital (REA-Brazil). Grant program page: <http://www.fbb.org.br/tecnologiasocial/banco-de-tecnologias-sociais>

and university groups. It is my hope that we can extend these partnerships in 2016 to increase awareness on OER and Open Education in Brazil and in the region.