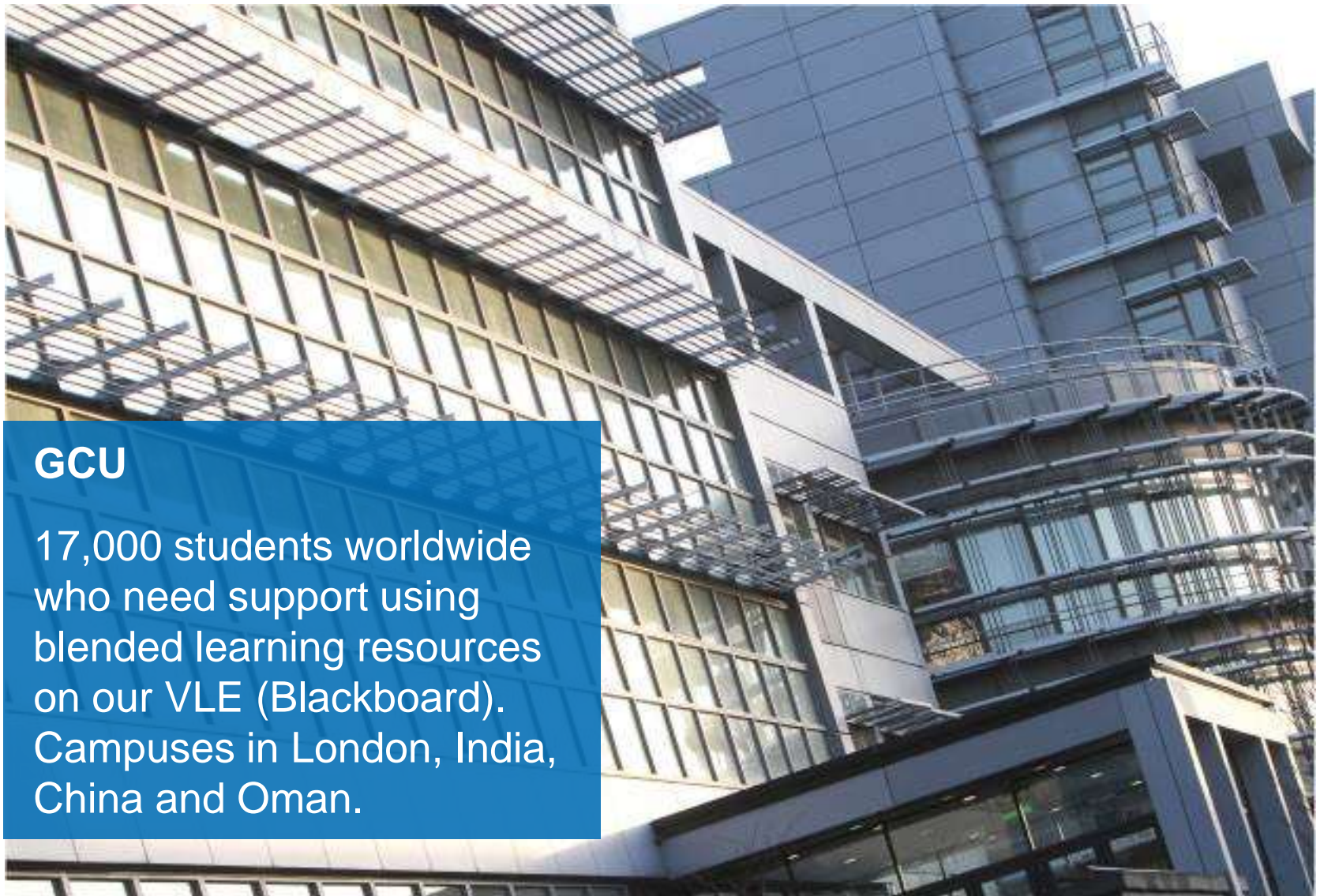The use of Open Educational Resources to update our Information Literacy skills package (**SMILE** - **S**tudy **M**ethods and **I**nformation **L**iteracy **E**xemplars) at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Marion Kelt, Senior Librarian for Digital Development and Information Literacy

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17,000 students worldwide who need support using blended learning resources on our VLE (Blackboard). Campuses in London, India, China and Oman.

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What is SMILE?

SMILE is a blended learning package which teaches information literacy and communication skills.

It uses web pages and multimedia content.

SMILE was originally created as a JISC (Joint Information Services Committee) project.

We have updated and customised it.

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Unit 1: What are learning styles?

Now we are going to look at different learning styles, how to identify your own and understand why it is important to you and your studies.

Understanding your learning style helps you get the most out of your university academic experience. Understanding the theory of learning styles helps you to present your work in the optimum way to a wider audience.

learning styles ⓘ

0:00 / 0:47 YouTube

Can't see the video? You can view it on YouTube, or here's some browser help.

SMILE by Imperial College, Loughborough University and the University of Worcester, modified by Marion Kelt Glasgow Caledonian University is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.

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Why use SMILE?

- Embedded in over 100 modules in our VLE
- Used as learning objects or pre-work before practical sessions.
- Available 24-7.
- Can be repeated.

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Why update SMILE?

We mapped SMILE to:

- National Information Literacy Framework Scotland http://www.therightinformation.org/framework-home/

- CBI 21st Century Graduate Attributes

- British Psychological Society Undergraduate Skills

And we talked to lecturers!

What did we add?

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

Two extra units:

- What is a student?
- Your digital footprint
- Wide range of extra topics from lecturers

Picture by Vince Lamb, available from Flikr creative commons

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Why use OERs?

- Building on best practice
- Staffing levels
- Short timescales
- Building on existing resources
- Use external expertise on new subject areas
- Confidence in creative commons licenses
- Promotion of the use of OERs by example!

Search methodology

- First stop Jorum (UK HE repository of OERs http://www.jorum.ac.uk/)
- Google advanced CC search
- Aim: less editing!

Source of OERs

Legend:
- Scotland
- England
- Wales
- USA
- Canada
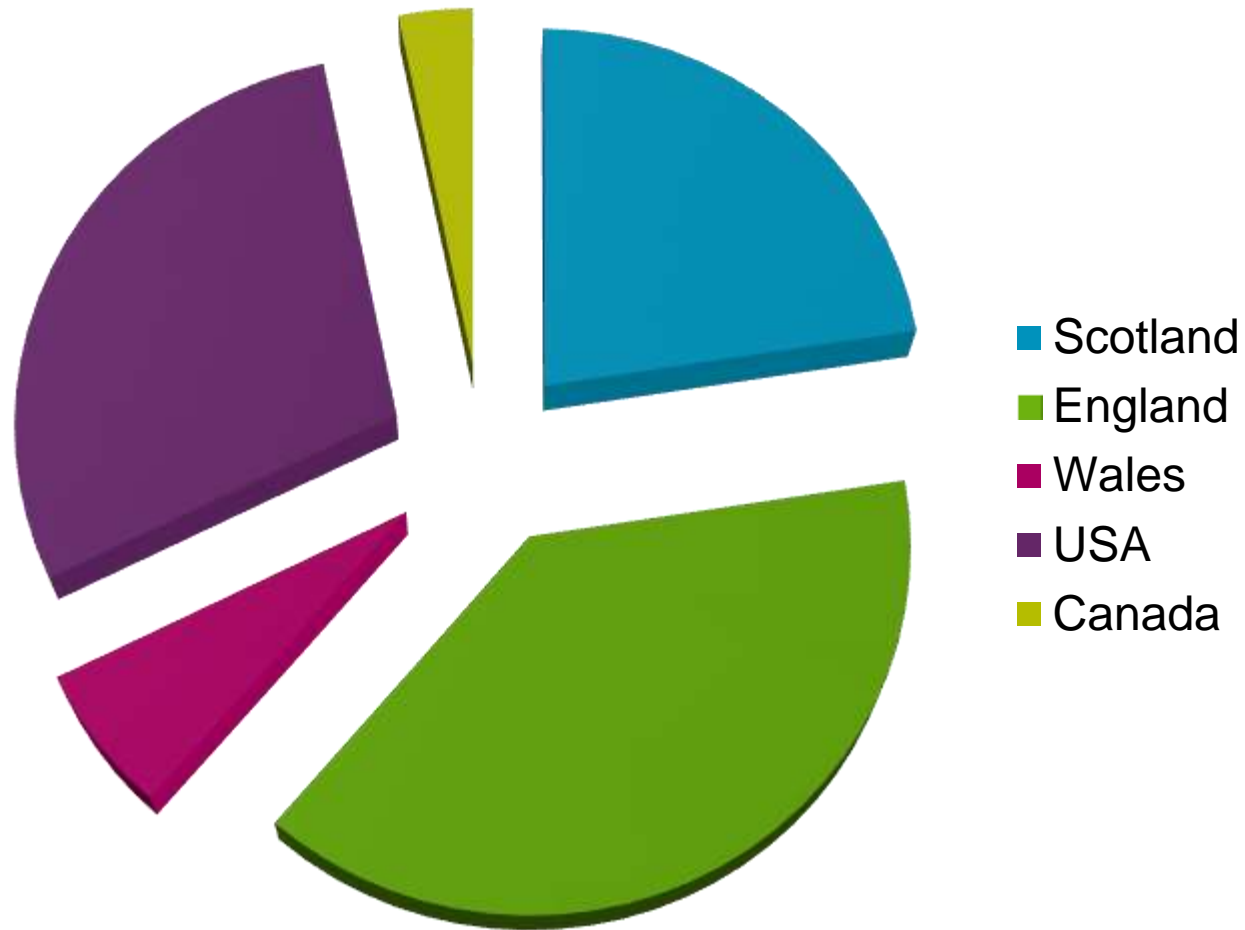
How open is an open educational resource?

- OERs not a "quick fix"
- Institutional software
- Extracting the content

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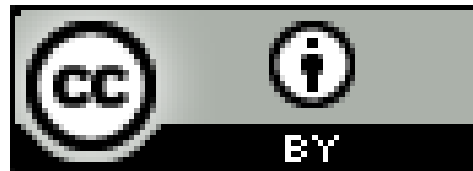
Format and design of SMILE

- One strong visual identity

- Fonts and colours

- Plain English and bullet points

- Customise examples

Content

- How much effort needed to produce plain English?
- Fit with your educational system?
- Amalgamation of several resources to get the content you need.

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File format

Some OERs may be tied to one file format:

- PDF

- Flash

or one presentation system:

- Collaborate

- Xerte

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Quizzes

- Quizzes may not run well in your VLE
- They may have to be rewritten or completely reworked

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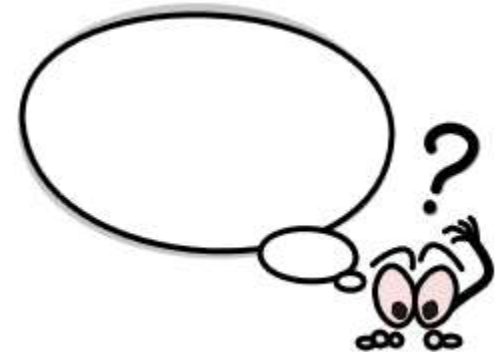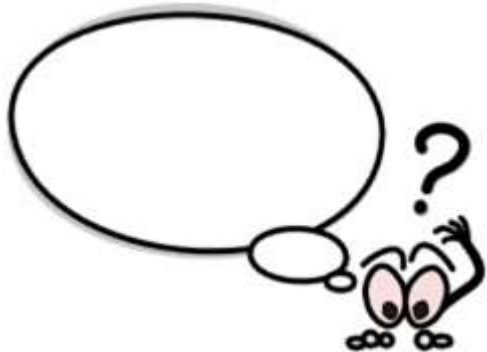
Feedback

- We needed a good feedback mechanism

- Basic email not enough

- Google forms added at the end of each section to measure student opinion.

- Feedback recorded into spreadsheets for later analysis.

Feedback forms

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Accessibility

- Work with your disability advisors.
- They will give you suggestions for improvement.
- This can be an opportunity to add further improvements to your package and respond to suggestions from other teams.

New menu design

Highlights which module is in use

Links to subsections of each unit

Highlighted subsection location

Added branding

In conclusion…..

- Using OERs is worthwhile!
- It builds on best practice
- It can be cost effective and can save time
- Be critical
- Allow time to adapt source material
- Test, test and test again!
- Contact m.kelt@gcu.ac.uk for more information
- Check out SMILE at http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/SMILE/Unit_1_vers3/start.html

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