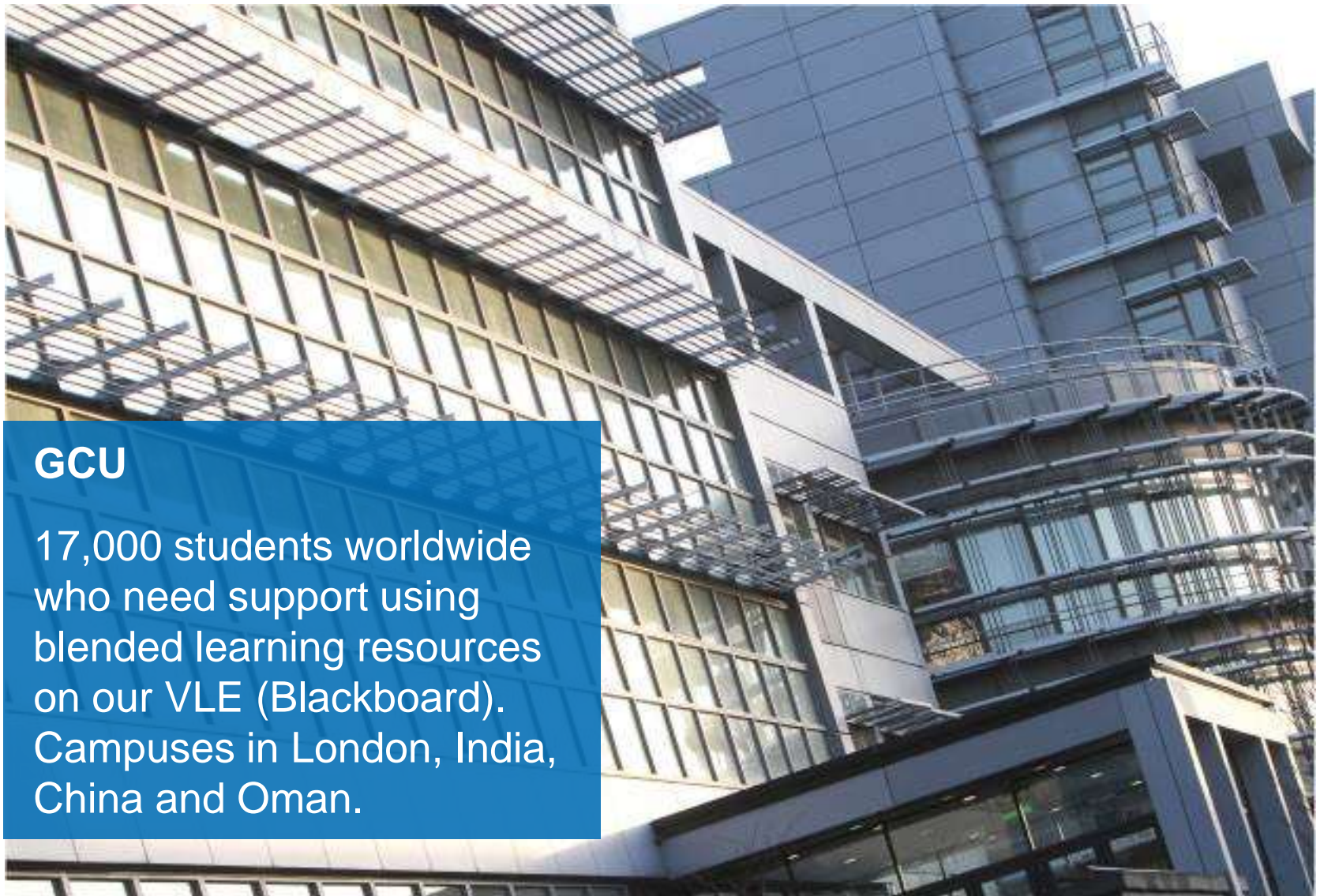


The use of Open Educational Resources to update our Information Literacy skills package (**SMILE** - **S**tudy **M**ethods and **I**nformation **L**iteracy **E**xemplars) at Glasgow Caledonian University.



**Marion Kelt, Senior Librarian for Digital Development and Information Literacy**





## GCU

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

Brighter futures begin with GCU



# 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.







## 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.



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](#).



1. What is a student and what are learning styles? - What is a student? - Learning styles - Groupwork
2. Understanding the Question, including PICO and SPICE
3. Organising your Time
4. Gathering information, includes research design and ethics
5. Finding Information: keywords and database searching
6. Evaluating Information, includes critical reviewing
7. Managing Information
8. Plagiarism
9. Harvard and APA referencing
10. Numerical, OSCOLA and Chicago referencing
11. Communicating Information, presentation and writing skills
12. Your digital footprint



# 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.



# Why update SMILE?



We mapped SMILE to:

- National Information Literacy Framework Scotland  
<http://www.therightinformation.org/framework-home/>
- CBI 21<sup>st</sup> Century Graduate Attributes
- British Psychological Society Undergraduate Skills

And we talked to lecturers!



# What did we add?



Two extra units:

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

Picture by Vince Lamb, available from Flickr creative commons



# 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!



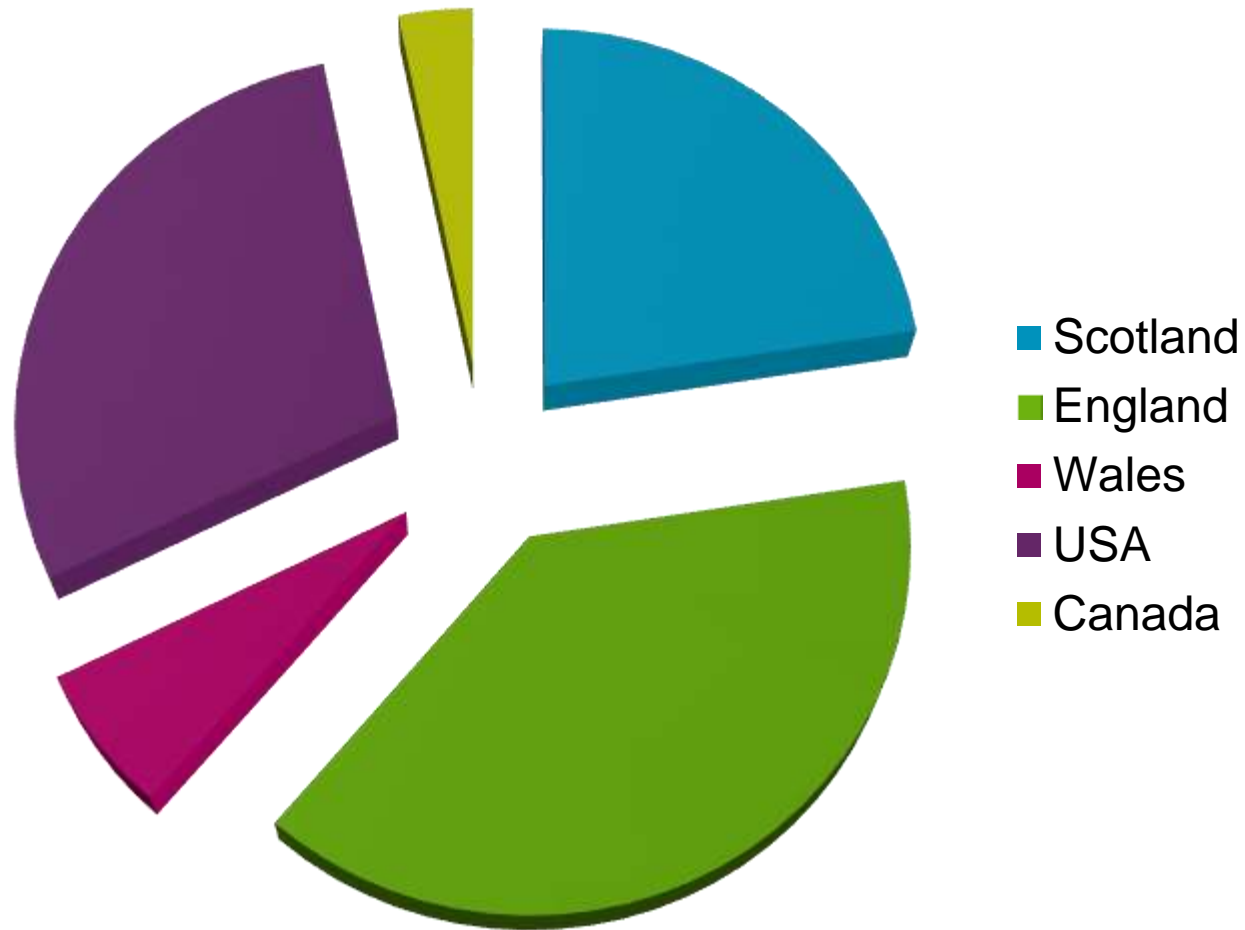
Open  
Educational  
Resources



Open  
Educational  
Resources

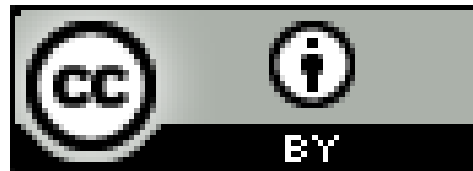


## Source of OERs



# How open is an open educational resource?

- OERs not a “quick fix”
- Institutional software
- Extracting the content



# 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.





## File format



Some OERs may be tied to one file format:

- PDF
- Flash

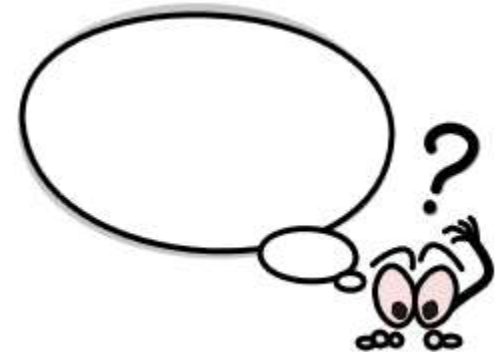
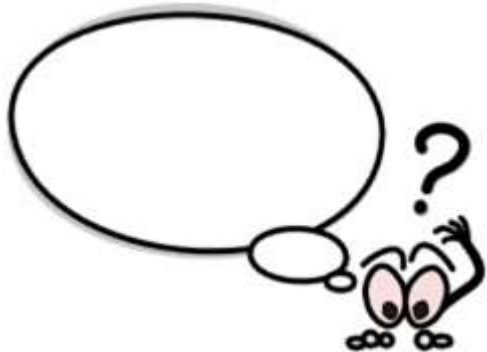
or one presentation system:

- Collaborate
- Xerte



# Quizzes

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




# 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



**Unit 4: Congratulations**

You have completed this unit. You will now be able to define information, understand how it develops and consider the best places to begin your search. You have learned that information is available in a variety of formats including electronic and text. You have also considered research design and ethics.

Please help us by filling in this short feedback form.

### Unit 4 feedback

Please help us to improve this SMILE unit by giving us your feedback and suggestions.

**What School are you a student of?**

**What year are you in?**


**Which sections of this unit did you use?**

- Why do we need information?
- What is information?
- Information timeline
- Note taking
- Reading with a purpose
- Research design
- General and research ethics

**Did you find the information clear and easy to understand?**

1 2 3 4 5

1. What is a student and what are learning styles?
2. Understanding the Question, including PICOD and SPICE
3. Organising your Time
<b>4. Gathering Information, includes research design and ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Why do we need information?</li><li>- What is information?</li><li>- Information timeline</li><li>- Research design</li><li>- General ethics</li><li>- Research ethics</li></ul>
5. Finding Information: keywords and database searching
6. Evaluating Information, includes critical reviewing
7. Managing Information
8. Plagiarism
9. Harvard and APA referencing
10. Numerical, OSCOLA and Chicago referencing
11. Communicating Information, presentation and writing skills
12. Your digital footprint



# 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

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SMILE	
1	What is a student and what are learning styles?
2	Understanding the Question, including PICO and SPICE
3	Organising your Time
4	Gathering Information, includes research design and ethics
5	Finding Information: keywords and database searching
6	Evaluating Information, includes critical reviewing
7	Managing Information
8	<b>Plagiarism</b> - What is it? - Benefits of not plagiarising - Types of plagiarism - How do I avoid it?
9	Harvard and APA referencing
10	Numerical, OSCOLA and Chicago referencing
11	Communicating Information, presentation and writing skills
12	Your digital footprint





# 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](mailto:m.kelt@gcu.ac.uk) for more information
- Check out SMILE at [http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/SMILE/Unit\\_1\\_vers3/start.htm](http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/SMILE/Unit_1_vers3/start.htm)  
!

