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Abstract to be considerer please for inclusion in the project dissemination track for OCWC Global conference 2014

# Developing digital literacies for Practice Based Massive Open Online Communities of Interest | A Social Enterprise Model

## Abstract

Chris Follows will draw from his past seven years experience of working with open online educational practice and digital literacies projects and activities at the University of the Arts London, including: the ongoing agile development of <http://process.arts.ac.uk/> and the JISC/UAL developing Digital literacies project, Digital Integration into Arts Learning (DIAL) project <http://dial.myblog.arts.ac.uk/> .

The DIAL project supports the development of staff and student led communities of practice (CoPs). The DIAL CoPs are made up of self-identifying individuals and groups who articulate their digital literacies goals and aspirations, assess their existing skills and confidence levels, and develop processes and resources to support their development and improve their collective digital literacies. Within these communities of practice, new interest groups are formed where individual and collective aims and anxieties are identified, along with skills and experience. Over the project lifetime, processes, resources (OERs) and prototypes are developed so the communities can be self sustaining and increasingly autonomous in their development.

This presentation aims to explore and question the challenges, motivations and benefits of staff and students participating in open online learning communities and engaging with open educational practice, as a casual observer and/or as an active contributor.

Chris will summarise a broad selection of the key findings, issues and lessons learned from across DIAL and process.arts including:

• Stewarding the digital stewards; managing and curating multiple online communities of interest, stewarding the stewards

• Supporting online OER communities; the DIAL communities of practice approach to developing digital literacies

• Collaboration: Departmental collaboration and local strategy change

• Fear of digital (institutional and individual): skills, competencies, awareness damage to traditional practice and reputational risk

Discussion:

Chris will explore how these findings relate to the wider current technological and pedagogical challenges facing the arts/creativie industries and HE sector today, including sector engagement and use of online technology for enhancing learning and teaching practice, including MOOCs. How will the arts sector move forward and face the challenges of digital and openness?

Chris will discuss new experimental ‘social enterprise’ approach to integrating online open educational practice into practical face-to-face based arts subjects. Chris aims to develop an independent artsmooc - http://www.artsmooc.org (Massive open online course/community) environment, bringing together a unique ‘hands on’ research and development network/consortium of stakeholders, made up of:

* Key stage 3 school students upwards (state schools and community college learners from non-privileged backgrounds)
* Young people and adults who have no formal university degree education
* Arts groups, networks, charitable arts organisations working with our stakeholders
* Universities, sector bodies, colleges, galleries and the creative industries industry

The consortium will research and explore the complex range of digital literacies that need to be considered in the development of new physical and virtual hybrid arts MOOC environments. Artsmooc will focus on addressing the digital/web literacies challenges based on the creative needs of its stakeholder groups by co-developing and creating new artsmooc learning environments and interest groups with and for its stakeholders. ​

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