



The possibility of using MOOCs to enhance cultural heritage and social cohesion

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Overview

- Iraqi HE
 - The history of education in Iraq
 - Iraqi Universities
- The Iraqi Cultural Heritage
 - HE and CH
- The OCHRE project
 - Training
 - MOOCs
 - The research plan
- The opportunities' for MOOCs

Iraqi HE

- The history of Iraqi education.
 - Sumerian civilization
 - Obelisk of Hammurabi-the oldest law organized by a human to address the society needs
- Iraqi HE today



HE and CH

- Archeology
- Sociology
- Religious studies
- Civilization and History, etc.



HE Support



- The most attention of higher education is on tangible heritage, but extremely less on intangible heritage.
- However, postgraduate studies, empirical research, conferences, symposiums, projects, etc.



The Iraqi Cultural Heritage



- Mosul is one of the largest cities in Iraq. It has a rich cultural heritage that includes diverse religions and ethnicities.
- This diversity can be also seen in most of the Iraqi cities.
- Despite a long historical tradition of pluralism and cohesion, the effects of war and the recent ISIS insurgency have led to increasing fragmentation and the social fabric. (United Nation Iraq, 2017).

The Iraqi Cultural Heritage



- The Iraqi government, international organizations, and non-governmental and civil society organizations seek to highlight the cultural heritage of the city,

The “OCHRE” project



- Open Cultural Heritage Resources and Education (OCHRE).
- Open educational resources could be a platform to raise academic skills and public awareness of cultural heritage in Iraq

The “OCHRE” project

The sponsor of the project is the Nahrein Network led by Prof. Eleanor Robson, UCL.

and the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).



The team of the project



The project led by
Prof Robin Shields
(University of
Bristol),



Assistant Prof Ahmed
A. Al-Imarah
(University of Kufa),



Assistant Prof Waad K.
Ibrahim (University of
Mosul).



Objectives

- Using open educational resources for enhancing the conceptions of cultural heritage.
- Developing social-cohesion in a post-conflict environment.
- Reconstructing confidence between diversity of ethnicities and cultures.





OER Technologies may include:

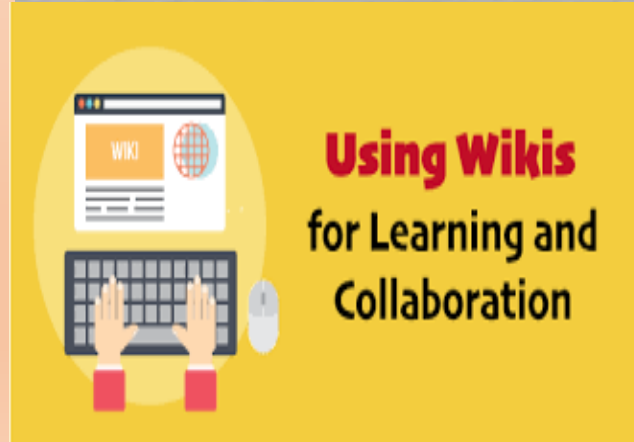
- Wikis
- Textbooks (E-Textbooks)
- Videos (lecture, documentary)
- Podcast
- Massive Online Open Course (MOOCs)



Why we did not use Wikis?



- Wikis seek to involve the typical visitors in an **ongoing process of collaboration** that constantly changes the website landscape.
- The wiki structure emerges according to the **needs of both users and audience (e.g. debate and interaction)**.
- Therefore, wiki is not the best way to decrease social division.



The project's plan



- The project, seeks to use MOOCs to deepen appreciation for cultural heritage and develop social-cohesion in a post-conflict environment.
- Several academics engaged in the training programme and capacity building around the creation of MOOCs.
- Academics should engage with the community of learners outside of the formal university.
- These academics will develop both an understanding of cultural heritage and improve social cohesion through MOOCs.

Training sessions



- Planned: two training sessions should be held in UK HEIs.
 - OER in general
 - Cultural heritage
- The plan changed as result of Covid 19
- Implemented: Several online workshops held in Iraq.
 - OER
 - Cultural heritage

Training sessions



- Other benefits:
 - Increasing participants from 10 to more than 40.
 - Connecting with other partners.
 - Lecturers from diverse groups that suffered from wars.



التراث الثقافي لمسيحي نينوى
"بغديدا نموذجا"
م. جلييلة مارزينا افرام



التراث الايزيدي في نينوى
مسارات الحماية
والتعريف
خضر نوملي - عضو مركز دراسات السلام وحل
النزاعات في جامعة دهوك ومدرب مختص في بناء السلام
وقضايا الاقليات والاعلام

Contents of MOOCs



Showing facts,
wisdoms

Eliminate
confusion

Values, habits
and principle

Historical
events

Stories of
cooperation

Fashions
Food,

Religious,
values

Common
beliefs

Marriage,
celebrations

Feasts

Friendships

Neighbourhood

Partnership

Traditions

Mutual respect

Publications' plan



- The first paper studies changes in academic attitudes to and competencies in MOOCs that occur through a one-year training programme (three times of interviews).

Publications' plan



The second paper studies the feedback collected from learners (the changes in knowledge and attitudes).

Other opportunities of MOOCs in HEIs



- The Iraqi history and culture
- Iraqi civilisation
- Babylon history
- Interfaith dialogue
- The marshes in southern Iraq



Other opportunities of MOOCs in HEIs



- Medicine, biology, chemistry, etc.
- According to Esraa Aldujaily et al 2020 study, breast cancer arises in middle age but not as it common targeting the old age of women.



Thank you



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

References



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