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feedback

An Institutional Approach to OER implementation at the University of South Africa (UNISA)

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Opportunity

The University of South Africa (UNISA) is a mega open and distance learning (ODL) university with more than 400,000 students in South Africa and around the world. UNISA committed to the implementation of OER within the university by incorporating support for OER into all relevant policies and processes. This is seen as the critical enabling factor. Moreover, as an open university, it was felt OER are well aligned with the institution's academic traditions of sharing knowledge while being beneficial to learners.

This decision to support OER was based on a willingness to increase collaborations, both within the university and internationally. University leaders also believe OER have the potential to save course development time with significant cost reductions, while enhancing the quality of the content and the teaching/learning processes. OER implementation is also seen as a good marketing strategy to showcase the university and raise its international profile.

Knowledge of OER became the basis for institutional adoption and implementation. As a result, awareness and knowledge of OER are quite high within the institution. At this point, the institutional focus shifted from promoting OER awareness to OER implementation.

Innovation