Office of the Vice Chancellor

POLICY ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

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CONTENT

1.0: Preface
The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) is an Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institution that is committed to a learning strategy which offers ODL, applying diverse delivery formats including print, audio, video, radio broadcast, e-Learning through the internet on computers and mobile devices. NOUN offers adequate students support through SMS, online facilitation, online chat rooms and tutorial discussions to enhance learning. The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) recognises the growing trend towards open content and the role that Open Educational Resources (OER) can play in opening-up knowledge for common good. This policy provides guidelines for creation and adoption of Open Educational Resources in NOUN. NOUN is also committed to neutralizing policies and barriers that interfere with the creation and adoption of OERs.

2.0: Institutional Vision
The vision of National Open University of Nigeria is to be regarded as the foremost University providing highly accessible and enhanced quality education anchored by social justice, equity, equality and national cohesion through a comprehensive reach that transcends all barriers.

3.0: Institutional Mission
The mission of NOUN is to provide functional cost effective learning which adds life-long value to quality education for all who seek knowledge.

4.0: Global Mandate on OER
The adoption of an OER-policy at NOUN is inspired by the recommendations made at the World OER congress by UNESCO in 2012. UNESCO recommends that states and institutions, within their capacity and authority should:

a. *Foster awareness and use of OER:* Promote and use OER to widen access to education at all levels both formal and non formal, in a perspective of lifelong learning thus contributing to social inclusion, gender equity and special needs education as well as improve both cost-efficiency and quality of teaching and learning outcomes through greater use of OER

b. *Facilitate enabling environments for use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT):* Bridge the digital divide by developing adequate infrastructure, in particular affordable broadband connectivity, widespread mobile technology and reliable electrical power supply. Improve media and information literacy and encourage the development and use of OER in open standard digital formats.

c. *Reinforce the development of strategies and policies on OER:* Promote the development of specific policies for the production and use of OER within wider strategies for advancing education.

d. *Promote the understanding and use of open licensing frameworks:* Facilitate the re-use, revision, remixing and redistribution of educational materials across the world through open licensing, which refers to a range of frameworks that allow different kinds of uses, while respecting the rights of any copyright holder

e. *Support capacity building for the sustainable development of quality learning materials:* Support institutions, train and motivate teachers and other personnel to produce and share high-quality, accessible educational resources, taking into account local needs and the full diversity of learners. Promote quality assurance and peer review of OER. Encourage the development of mechanisms for the assessment and certification of learning outcomes achieved through OER.

f. *Foster strategic alliances for OER:* Take advantage of evolving technology to create opportunities for sharing materials which have been released under an open license in diverse media and ensure sustainability through new strategic partnerships within and among the education, industry, library, media and telecommunications sectors.

g. *Encourage the development and adaptation of OER in a variety of languages and cultural contexts:* Favour the production and use of OER in local languages and diverse cultural contexts to ensure their relevance and accessibility. Intergovernmental organisations should encourage the sharing of OER across languages and cultures, respecting indigenous knowledge and rights.

h. *Encourage research on OER:* Foster research on the development, use, evaluation and re-contextualisation of OER as well as on the opportunities and challenges they present, and their impact on the quality and cost-efficiency of teaching and learning in order to strengthen the evidence base for public investment in OER.

i. *Facilitate finding, retrieving and sharing of OER:* Encourage the development of user-friendly tools to locate and retrieve OER that are specific and relevant to particular needs. Adopt appropriate open standards to ensure interoperability and to facilitate the use of OER in diverse media

j. *Encourage the open licensing of educational materials produced with public funds:* Governments/competent authorities can create substantial benefits for their citizens by ensuring that educational materials developed with public funds be made available under open licenses (with any restrictions they deem necessary) in order to maximize the impact of the investment. See link:
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/Paris%20OER%20Declaration_01.pdf

5.0. NOUN OER Mandate

The National Open University of Nigeria in its quest to embrace the philosophy of OER established in August 2014 a dedicated unit for this, known as the NOUN-OER unit. The unit was officially inaugurated in October 2015.

The mandate of the unit is as follows:

- to stimulate the awareness of Open Educational Resources in NOUN and beyond
- to establish an open licensing framework in NOUN
- to contribute to global OER repository of resources
- to stimulate research and exchange activities in OER
- to provide capacity building in OER
- to offer high-quality open licensed Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to the global community
- to collaborate with national and international organization in OER -related activities.

6.0: Purpose NOUN OER Policy

The purpose of this policy is to guide the development and review of OER materials prior to sharing them globally. The policy therefore clarifies licensing issues and publication rights for OERs, provides guidelines on the creation, use and review of OERs and identifies human and other resources required for this process. This is a living document, which will be reviewed every five years.

7.0: Policy Alignment

To be successful and sustainable, development of OER cannot be a side-line activity within an institution or education system. Development of OERs needs to be integrated into institutional or systemic processes in order to both leverage its potential and provide for its sustainability. The OER policy of National Open University of Nigeria shall therefore be aligned and be consonant with the following:

- the vision and mission of NOUN
- NOUN strategic document
- Condition of Service for staff
- NOUN blueprint
- Research and publication policy
- Quality assurance policy
- NOUN copyright policy
- ICT policy
- DIRD checklist
- NOUN plagiarism policy

8.0: OER License Model

This policy adopts the licensing model of the Creative Commons (CC). Creative Commons aids the free distribution of an otherwise copyrighted work. Thus, CC is used when an author seeks to give people the right to share, use and build-upon a work he/she has created. It enables the author to change the copyright term from 'all right reserved' to 'some rights reserved'. Every Creative Commons license ensures that licensors get the credit for their work. Every Creative Commons license works around the world and lasts as

long as applicable copyright lasts, as they are built on copyright. The current six creative commons licenses are:

Attribution
CC BY

This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered.

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This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms. This license is often compared to "copyleft" free and open source software licenses. All new works based on your works will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use.

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This license is the most restrictive of the six main licenses, only allowing others to download your works and share them with others as long as they credit you, but they cannot change them in any way or use them commercially (Creativecommons.org)

9.0: NOUN OER Licences Type

The license types identified above differ in their openness from the most open CC-BY (Attribution) to the most closed being CC-BY-NC-ND (Attribution-Non-Commercial-No-Deriv). For NOUN the second license known as '**CC BY-SA 4.0**' (Attribution-ShareAlike) is chosen as it not only allows for the remix, tweak and creation of derived works with credit to the original licensor, but makes all the new works based on it carry the same license. Publications released on NOUN OER website are therefore made available in Open Access under the [Attribution-ShareAlike4.0 (CC-BY-SA 4.0) license](). By using the content of these publications, users are expected to accept to be bound by the terms of use of the Open Educational Resources repository [oer.nou.edu.ng]() of the National Open University of Nigeria.

Reports and speeches are also made available systemically under an open licence, but as the integrity of this public work needs to be preserved, adaptation is not to be allowed and they shall be released under a "CC BY ND" licence.

10.0: The Policy

1. NOUN holds the copyright in trust for subject matter experts and content developers.
2. Use, creation and publication of OERs must be consistent with the University's reputation and values.
3. All OERs created shall comply with the University's Quality Assurance guidelines.
4. OER created must comply with Directorate of Instructional Resource Development (DIRD) guidelines on NOUN.
5. Reports, speeches and lectures can also be published as OERs.
6. NOUN OERs are made available in the following formats: Open Document Text (ODT) for instant re-use by students and academics outside NOUN; Portable Document Format (PDF) for use on computers and self-print purposes and the electronic book publication form (ePub) for reading on tablets and smartphones.
7. The university encourages staff and students to use, create and publish OERs to enhance the quality of learner's experience, provided that these resources used are fit-for-purpose and relevant. This is not limited to the course-modules and includes all kinds of assignments, projects, free and open courses, seminars etc. Especially the use of existing OERs is promoted in the course-development at NOUN.
8. Staff are encouraged to adhere to the license model of OERs used and subsequently license their work according to specified conditions of the model.
9. Each publication created as an OER in NOUN shall have the following reference: "downloaded for free as an Open Educational Resource at [http://oer.nou.edu.ng]()" and a section explaining the open license including the do's and don'ts.

10. With the cooperation of course writer/programme coordinator and guidance by OER unit, Quality Assurance and DIRD, an existing full course or set of modules can be published as OER

11. With the cooperation of course writer/programme coordinator and guidance by OER unit, Quality Assurance and DIRD, new courses including major revisions, designed and developed in NOUN, are to be published as OER.

12. The OER unit in collaboration with DIRD/QA/ICT units will play foundational role in training faculty, staff and students engaged in creation and use of OERs, especially in design and media related skills as well as provide the human resource to assist in the development of OERs.

13. All materials to be OERized shall be subjected to plagiarism check

14. University Policies on Intellectual Property Right (IPR) must be adhered to when using OERs.

15. The University reserves the right to remove resources that do not comply with its policies and/or request removal of resources from external repository sites.

16. For the purpose of promotion and recognition, course materials should count for academics

17. This policy presumes that students will not be independent creators of OER materials. Students who assist with creating or producing OER shall be acknowledged as contributors.

18. In the event that students are involved in developing OER as part of their university education, the authorship rights shall fall to the University but the student shall be acknowledged.

19. The ICT, DIRD, QA, Library and OER units and all other relevant departments will support the design, development, review, sharing and storing of OERs.

20. The University encourages a teamwork approach to curriculum and material development.

21. *Liability*: All OER materials shared from the university with the world at large shall carry a disclaimer indicating that the material is for educational purposes only and that the university absolves itself of any practical misuse of the OER materials or their content. OER materials authored and published by staff of the university do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the university.

22. NOUN will actively foster open sharing of educational materials with universities and organizations.

11.0: Guidelines for Implementation

1. All resources released as OER must ensure that the National Open University of Nigeria is stated as the licensor and wording must be included on the resource such as © National Open University of Nigeria or equivalent to ensure correct attribution.

2. It shall be the responsibility of staff and students to ensure that they have the necessary right to publish an OER.
3. All resources published shall comply with this policy guideline.
4. All audio/video based OER teaching resources shall be deposited in the University's repository in hard & electronic, in DIRD, Library, OER and ICT.
5. OER unit shall put in place a tracking system to monitor use and reuse of NOUN's course materials.
6. Staff are encouraged to adhere to the license model of OERs used and subsequently license their work according to specified conditions of the model.
7. The OER policy shall be communicated through online publication, workshops and prints, with the aim of creating awareness and adherence to the guidelines stipulated.

12.0: Review

Regular NOUN Courses published as OER materials are reviewed according to the approved NOUN regular revision cycle. A feedback form enabling academics and students from anywhere to comment on the OER-materials shall be made available. Minor revisions with acknowledgement will be made available as they occur.

13.0: Acknowledgement

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- Dr Tosin Awolalu: CLL, NOUN
- Mrs. Edema Onwuchekwa: Library
- Mr Opeyemi Dahunsi: NOUN-OER Unit
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