Closing in on Open: Building Tools to Make Sense of the OER Content Landscape

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The Offline World and OER

- OER are ideal for these users in a few ways:
  - Copiable, keeps costs and access logistics down
  - Higher flexibility for user-driven localization/adaptation
  - Modularity enables alignment and selective adoption

- Also ways in which they are unsuitable or require distinctive handling
The Offline World and OER

- Difficulties in utilizing OER offline:
  - Discoverability usually connectivity-heavy process
  - Built for habits with antecedents in internet literacy
  - Offliners cannot access supplementary contextual information to help make sense of individual pieces
  - HE-focused (with all attendant assumptions)
Kolibri Studio

An open-source ed-tech platform designed to make OER available to low-resource communities:

- No Internet required; everything is stored and runs locally
- Open content repository; supports alignment to standards and integration of local content
- Capable of running on a wide variety of hardware (including legacy and low-cost devices)
Building the OER Library:

The cloud server aggregates resources from many sources, organized into “channels.”

The **Kolibri application** is installed onto a local device and imports channels. Users can interact with Kolibri offline, directly from that device or from a nearby client device that is connected to it.
Kolibri “Channels”: Resource Corpus

A “channel” is a collection of content and metadata, organized into a “topic tree”

e.g. “Math” > “Arithmetic” > “Fractions” > “Comparing fractions”

Resources can be set related to one another, prerequisites for one another, or tagged with labels.
What does the Studio library do with OER?

**Content Curation With Kolibri**

1. Pick a topic and set objectives
   - Consult textbook
   - Consult local curriculum

2. Create sub-topics
   - topic 1
   - topic 2
   - topic 3

3. Search for educational content to fit each sub-topic

4. Map out content to fit curriculum or lesson plan
   - Collaborate
   - Get Feedback

5. Deliver to Learners
   - Share
Global content channels: Channels not specifically aligned to local standards, but containing high quality materials from all over the world, applicable to all contexts.
Local content channels:
Created or organized to meet the language and curriculum needs of your context, or adapted from global content
Global
- Source in its entirety
- Freedom for those without curricular requirements
- Introduction to Kolibri quickly
- Freedom to explore content outside curriculum

AND

Local?
- Aligned to local curricular requirements
- Quickly access content that has already been identified as relevant for age and skill level
- Organized by a curator to meet the needs of specific learning group