



Learning4Content Workshops

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Sandy [View profile](#)

[More options](#) Nov 23, 5:40 pm

Concerns about quality (I guess I can see both sides - typical Gemini)

From an author's point of view - my concerns are that any ratbag (Australian slang term for slightly insane idiot - malicious or not) can get in and change your stuff - this may be good (as there is usually room for improvement) and yet it may not (they may want to change it in inappropriate ways).

From a reader/user point of view - how do I know what I am reading/using is good? If the person has put their name on it and I can trust that name (used before, recommended, whatever) then OK. I guess it comes back to everything you read - you have to make a judgement about the value (and not take things at face value).

Then again, maybe it's about control and ownership and the above comments are from a I made it/it was my idea perspective. If you adopt an attitude of once it is out there it is not yours anymore, it belongs to the commons then what difference does it make who does what to it? (So long as it is appropriate for their need).

Course development - open or closed?

Still unsure about this - some of us make our living developing courses and if we put our stuff in open source, who will pay us (we will not be able to eat, and therefore not be able to add more free content!), then again, I like the concept of sharing - your knowledge becomes greater, but so does mine.

Mechanisms to ensure quality.

Maybe a clear guide or justification or annotation as to why something was changed - for example if you follow through the development of a wiki - it would be good to see who changed what and why. This might help the end user in their decision about the quality of the resource. (BUT it might become cumbersome.)

Maybe at some point the original author/s might deem the resource as set - this resource then stays unable to be altered by anyone other than the original author. However, copies of the resource can be freely edited and customised for use by other people - eg page 1 might be original resource with an explanation of its use, why it was developed etc, Once this was set, page 2 could be somebody else's use of the resource (as they have adapted it) with an explanation of why they adapted it and how they used it and so on. For example - I develop a Professional Development resource on VET Assessment with a very Australian slant, this could be set as page one. My Indian friend wants to contextualize this for use in the Indian environment, no problem, this becomes page 2. Then my Australian colleague wants to use the resource in Australia - he uses page 1 OR develops his own page 3 of the resource that is contextualised to his specific

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situation (say assessment in automotive engineering). Eventually we would have a good resource that is adapted for use in a number of situations. As the original author I could choose to read what my other colleagues have done and if I think it is appropriate I could amend the original resource to include their ideas.

Well that's my ideas - look forward to reading everybody else's.
Sandy

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