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RE: Letter of Support for the Structured Content Authoring and Aggregation Tool Project

OpenCourseWare and Open Educational Resources aim to provide open access to high quality educational materials for use and reuse by anyone, anywhere, anytime.   In addition to allowing self-learning for anyone with basic computer skills and internet access, OER and OCW enable educational goals to be met across many sectors, such as lifelong learning, transition from secondary to higher education, public education, workforce development, and skills training. OCW and OER provide vetted content along with examples of pedagogical approaches for cost-effective faculty development and course planning through remixing and adapting materials to fit new needs. Open educational materials allow for flexible and customizable learning, paving the way for new models of learning assessment and increased channels for reaching people that current educational systems are unable to serve.

Reuse and adaptation of content to meet needs of different educational institutions and learning communities around the world is an important aspect of the OER and OCW movements. This remixing of material into derivative works increases the number of courses and materials available, and the diversity of viewpoints, cultures and educational approaches represented. These are critical to making OER the rich and nuanced resource that learners and educators desire.

Developing technology that equips educators with an easy to use tool for adapting and authoring OER and OCW will advance the mission of the movement greatly. The Structured Content Authoring and Aggregation Tool would fit this need by enabling user-friendly authoring and remixing of OER while supporting interoperability across different platforms and learning environments.

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