University of Southern Queensland

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

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is committed to the provision of access to free and open educational resources to faculty members, students and self-learners throughout the world. The mission of USQ is to develop, enrich and serve its local and global communities. One of the key aims of USQ is to develop a knowledgeable and cultured society enriched through learning, scholarship, research, intellectual engagement and social equity. We are committed to supporting research and development that contributes to new knowledge and a better quality of life.

As part of its mission, USQ has become part of the Open Educational Resources (OER) movement, which has as its central tenet the simple and powerful idea that the world's knowledge is a public good and that technology, especially the Internet, provides an exceptional opportunity to increase access to knowledge and to share it, use it and reuse it. In demonstrating our commitment to the principles of OER, USQ became the first Australian university to become a member of the OpenCourseWare Consortium.

Along with the more than 100 higher education institutions and associated organisations from around the world who are members of the Consortium, USQ provides access to free and open digital publication of high quality educational materials, organised as courses. USQ acknowledges the support and effort of its academic staff members who have committed to sharing their teaching materials for the benefit of all.

Developing technology that equips educators with an easy-to-use tool for adapting and authoring open educational resources and opencourseware will benefit the open education movement considerably. The Structured Content Authoring and Aggregation Tool would enable user-friendly authoring and remixing of open educational resources, while supporting interoperability across different platforms and learning environments. As part of the Structured Content Authoring and Aggregation Tool project, USQ's Australian Digital Futures Institute is in

the process of setting up a "learning materials exchange site" based on open source software, which will allow anyone to sign up and create, assemble and remix open education resources. Research and development on this platform will be able to be used, along with contributions from other partners to this project, as input to the Structured Content Authoring and Aggregation Tool Project.

Yours sincerely

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