Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education

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Abstract

The purposes of this research were to 1) design and develop the online scripts and storyboards; and 2) evaluate the online scripts and storyboards. The 2 sample groups were purposively selected from public and private universities, and the public and private organizations. The first sample group composed of 7 content experts who evaluated the online content scripts in Phase 1: 4 in English language and 3 in French language. The second sample group was 3 experts in Open Educational Resources (OER) and technology who evaluated the online storyboard in Phase 2. The research instruments were the questionnaires, the online scripts and storyboards. The data were analyzed through percentage, descriptive analysis and narrative descriptions.
The research findings were as follows: 1) the online scripts of the OER contents using Blog builder service, comprise of 4 main topics located at the URL: http://oer-mef.blogspot.com/: Concepts and Theories, Curriculum Evaluation Models, OER Hot Links, and French Resources. 2) the online storyboards of the OER website were designed, using the model of existing OER sites and Web builder service provider, located at: http://rosechong.wix.com/oerforeignlang; 3) most of the content experts agreed with the online script on the language level, the utility and utilization at 92.5 %. There were few disagreements at 7.45 % on the beneficial for parents and general users. All experts have consensus agreement that the OER resources are very useful to any users due to the innovative concepts of free use and open content. The quality of the resources base mainly on their selection and categorization, as well as the various data formats: text, slide, video and pdf file/ ebook; 4) most of the experts in OER and technology agreed with the design of the online storyboard for OER website at 72.72%. Only few of experts disagreed 4.54 % and 22.72% feel uncertain with some designs of storyboard. The emphasis must be put especially on the use of Creative Commons Licenses and the selection of font sizes and font styles.

Keywords: Open Educational Resources, Foreign Language Education, Curriculum Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

Since education reform in 1999 and the launching of National Education Standards in 2004, there has been a continuous attempt to develop Thai curriculum to correspond to standards-based education. However, Thai teachers still lack knowledge about SBE especially in curriculum evaluation field (World Data on Education VII ed. 2010/11, 2011), though many attempts such as various projects for teacher development have been launched. The knowledge about SBE concerning curriculum evaluation is important because if the educators lack this knowledge, it can negatively affects the designing of evaluation activities. Besides, as the world becomes more interconnected, knowing another language other than your native language becomes greatly beneficial whether considering from financial or social aspects. Especially English language, since it’s considered as an international language and with the upcoming of ASEAN Economic Community at the end of the year 2015, English will play an even bigger role thanks to the agreement among 10 countries to use English as a working language. That’s why it’s important for Thai teachers and students to develop their English language skills to be able to compete in a competitive society (Sanonguthai, 2014). Furthermore, there are a great deal of information on the internet but not all of them have been categorized and organized. For Thai teachers, due to the poor English competency, Thai teachers are unable to benefit from the existing knowledge on the internet which are mostly in English for self-learning and development (Noom-ura, 2013). In addition, they are also unable to select, collect, and analyze the content on the internet to decide whether this content is trustworthy enough to be used with the students or not (UNESCO, 2015). Therefore, the “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education” is an educational project that aims to collect and analyze the relevant content in curriculum
evaluation including to maintain the advantage of open educational resources in order to augment the understanding in curriculum evaluation process and the opportunity for foreign language teacher in Thailand to access and manage the auto-educational resources without time and place restrictions.

OBJECTIVES
The objectives of this study were as follows:
1. To design and develop the online scripts and storyboards of the “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”.
2. To evaluate the online scripts and storyboards of the “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Population
Foreign language content experts in universities of Thailand and OER and technology experts in universities and organization in Thailand.

Samples
Data were collected from two sample groups: (1) The sample group of 7 content experts: 4 English language lecturers and teacher from 4 following universities: Thammasat University, Rangsit University, Rajabhat Rajanagarindra University and Rajapruk University and 3 French language lecturers from 2 universities: Kasetsart University and Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus (2) The sample group of 1 OER expert from Thai Cyber University Project and 2 technology experts from Kasetsart University and IEC Corporation.

Research Instrument
1. Research instruments used to design and develop the sitemap was:
   1.1 English and French resources from the World Wide Web were used to design and develop the sitemap for the OER, composing of the main topics and the sub-topics.
   2. Research instruments used to design and develop the scripts and storyboards were:
   2.1 Documents and books about script, storyboard and web design were used to design the scripts and storyboards.
   2.2 Blog builder service provider: Blogger.com was used to develop the online script for the content of Curriculum Evaluation.
   2.3 Web builder service provider: Wix.com was used to develop the online storyboard for the OER website on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education.
   3. Research instruments used to collect the data were:
  3.1 Web 2.0 tools and services: Google form was used to develop the online questionnaires for the content experts and technology and OER experts.
  3.2 Questionnaire for the content experts was used to assess the experts’ opinion toward the content on the online script.
  3.3 Questionnaire for the technology expert was used to assess the experts’ opinion toward the design of the OER website on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education.
Data Collection

PHASE 1: The information on curriculum evaluation, the URL scripts and the evaluation results

1. The OER Content Sitemap:

The researcher collected the information about “Curriculum Evaluation” for sitemap design and development from the WWW, the related documents and books.

2. The URL Scripts:

The researcher developed the URL scripts in Word file format and the online scripts in Blog format at Blogger.com, using the collected resources from the WWW.

3. The Evaluation Results from the Content Experts:

The researcher collected the data from the content experts and improved the URL scripts as being suggested.

PHASE 2: The information about the OER website and the evaluation results

2.1 The Online Storyboard Design and Development:

The researcher collected the information about the OER website and selected “Jisc” OER website as a model to create the online storyboard, using web builder service provider: Wix.com and the online scripts.

2.2 The Evaluation Results from the OER and Technology Experts:

The researcher collected the data from the experts and made a conclusion for the thesis advisory committees. The online storyboard was corrected and improved according to the advices of the committees.

Data Analysis

Percentage, descriptive analysis and narrative descriptions were employed to analyze the data.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. The Design of Online Scripts of the “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”

The OER scripts were developed using the script files and Blog builder service, composing of 4 main topics of content with different sub-topics as follows:

Main Topic 1: Concepts and Theories
   Sub-topic 1: Development Cycle
   Sub-topic 2: Measurement Assessment and Evaluation
   Sub-topic 3: Types - Techniques-Methods

Main Topic 2: Curriculum Evaluation Models
   Sub-topic: Basic Concepts
   Sub-topic: Taba – Tyler Model
   Sub-topic: Elliot W. Eisner Model
   Sub-topic: Daniel L. Stufflebeam Model
   Sub-topic: Robert Stake Model
   Sub-topic: Scriven Model

Main Topic 3: OER Hotlinks
   Sub-topic 1: About OER
   Sub-topic 2: Related OER Sites

Main Topic 4: French Resources

2. The Evaluation of Online Storyboards of the OER Website

The OER storyboards were developed using the online scripts and Web builder service: Wix.com, the resource links concerning Foreign Language Education in 2 main categories: Curriculum Development and Innovative Instructions as follows:
1. Curriculum Development
- Integrated Curriculum in SBE context
- Standards-Based Secondary Curriculum
- Curriculum Evaluation

2. Innovative Instructions
- Action-Oriented Approach
- Active Learning
- Online Training Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Level of Agreement</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Number and Level of Agreement of the Content Experts for the Online Scripts of “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”: The Content, Utility, and Utilization</td>
<td>149 (92.5%)</td>
<td>12 (7.45%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Number and Level of Agreement of Technology and OER Experts for the Design of the Online Storyboard for OER website: Presentation and Technology Used.</td>
<td>48 (72.7%)</td>
<td>3 (4.5%)</td>
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For the evaluation results from the content experts, the findings confirmed that this innovative media, “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”, are very useful to any users due to the innovative concepts of free use and open content. The findings, hence, confirmed that this innovative media can be a great classroom helper to the French and English language teachers in conducting their curriculum evaluation.

Most of the content experts agreed with the online script on the language level, the utility and utilization at 92.5 %. Only 7.45 % of content experts disagreed on the beneficial for parents and general users.

For the evaluation results from the technology and OER expert, the findings showed that the design of the online storyboards for OER website concerning Foreign Language Education was satisfactory at 72.72%. 4.54% disagreed and 22.72% felt uncertain mainly due to the incomplete development of the content. The emphasis must be paid especially on the use of Creative Commons Licenses the selection of font sizes and font styles.

DISCUSSION

For the sitemap development, as the literature review were carefully studied, the researcher specifically looked into every detail on Curriculum Evaluation as the related research concerning the application of this approach in teaching and learning, the topics of content for the sitemap of the OER were therefore designed accordingly to the reviewed information.

Hence, all the content experts agreed with the good design for the OER sitemap concerning all topics.

The ideas concerning the development of online scripts in Blog format came from the knowledge and experience of the researcher on the application of Web2.0 tools and services. The inspiration came from the following description of CELT hub (2015):

“…Blogs and Wikis are web tools that allow you to share and collaborate on the
internet. A blog is short for a web log and can be a useful tool for recording reflections, personal experiences, opinions, to reporting or making commentary on event…"

And of Selwyn (2008):

"...The use of blogs and wikis in education is relatively well established and supports existing pedagogies of reflective writing (the blog) and teamwork (the wiki)...

The easy to use tool like Blogger.com allows every user to create various types of data presentation, from multimedia to the blog and website development. Not any knowledge on programming language is needed as many tutorials are provided for the use of Blogger.com. (Thomson, 2008)

For the storyboard development, the researcher used Wix.com which is Web builder service to design and develop the online storyboards because of its various functions and features of Web 2.0 Technology.

Many features on this service such as the option for free usage, the various Web templates, and the gallery of many Web components make it very easy for users without the programming knowledge to develop the professional website. In addition, as this Web builder service had gain popularity from wide range of users; the site continues to grow and more innovative features are regularly added like the template with OER characteristics.

However, one expert in technology suggested about the free service that it can turn into the service with charge in the future.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the content experts agreed with the online script on the language level, the utility and utilization at 92.5 %. Few disagreed at 7.45 % on the beneficial for parents and general users. All experts have consensus agreement that the OER resources are very useful to any users due to the innovative concepts of free use and open content. The quality of the resources base mainly on their selection and categorization, as well as the various data formats: text, slide, video and pdf file/ e-book. In addition, most of the experts in OER and technology agreed with the design of the online storyboard for OER website at 72.72%. Only few disagreed at 4.54 % and felt uncertain at 22.72%. The emphasis must be paid especially on the use of Creative Commons Licenses the selection of font sizes and font styles.

I recommend that before developing the website using the scripts and storyboards of the “Open Educational Resources on Curriculum Evaluation for Foreign Language Education”, the new developers should study the usage models and methods of the OER website.
References


