Learning Innovation Festival 2020
Compilate of Q&A Responses

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1. **Can the OERs found on MERLOT be easily integrated with or freely uploaded to our institution's own learning platform?**
   Yes, With materials in MERLOT, you simply copy the link to the materials and add it into your LMS where you want as an external link. You can copy the link into the Course Content area, Assignments, External Resources, etc.

2. **Could you explain more about how standards of the OERs available on the platform are maintained?**
   MERLOT has over 25 faculty editorial boards and an active user community that peer review the materials in MERLOT.   The hit list of MERLOT resources has the materials rated high for quality at the top of the list.

3. **How do you think educators and students might be able to use the MERLOT platform most effectively to achieve personalised learning?**
   1. Have students and faculty become members of MERLOT.

   2. Have students and faculty explore the MERLOT collection and other library collections to find materials that they feel will aid their learning.

   3. Have students and faculty create MERLOT Bookmark Collections and Course ePortfolios for their own personal course of study.   I can do a workshop on this

4. **Can Merlot be integrated with the university library collections to create a one stop place. Do you have any examples Prof Gerry Thank you**
   Yes, MERLOT has APIs for search that can be integrated into your library management system.   Campuses have done with Ex Libris' Alma and Primo. There is a subscription fee for this service.

5. **Making educational resources free and accessible to all is an inspiring vision indeed. What should instructors ask themselves before deciding whether or not to upload the resource to the shared pool?**
   Question: Why Not?   If you have intellectual property that you want to protect so you can make money, then do it.   If you have intellectual property that you

think can produce social and economic benefits by having many people use it, then share it.

6. **What % of contents are removed from MERLOT and for what reasons? What are the ways to mitigate such unprecedented situations?**
We have an extensive acceptable use policy for including and removing materials.
https://info.merlot.org/merlothelp/topic.htm#t=Policies_and_Practices.htm In brief, Materials are removed because they are inappropriate for the collection, identified by editors and webmaster. Materials are removed when links go bad. Out of 90,000 materials, about 100-200 are removed each year, mostly for bad links

7. **Are students given access to Merlot to research for their assignments? Or is it exclusive to professors?**
MERLOT is open for everyone. About 30% of the members of MERLOT are students and they can use MERLOT as their personalized library

8. **Thank you for your great talk. It is eye-opening. My question is if I have some resources and how could I submit them to MERLOT for possibly including them in the database?**
It is easy to submit materials to the MERLOT library.
1. Sign up as a member of MERLOT (link on home page).
2. Click on the Add Material link in the navigation bar and you fill out the online form.
3. Click submit and you're done.

9. **Dr Hanley, the most challenging thing we face, is to get all faculty members on board to fully use these online teaching facilities. Do you have any advice?**
1. You can't get everyone on board at once and you will need to help them find the reasons why they need to change (these reason's won't be the same for all your faculty.
2. You will need to blend extrinsic and intrinsic motivators. 3. Give them help in the transition process - see
https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewSite.htm?id=9160704 for some help

10. **Does Merlot screen/vet editorial board applicants? Also , how do you ensure the quality of open access resources?**
Yes, there is training the peer reviewers have to go through a "pass the test". Ultimately, it is the user's quality standards that matter.

11. **Faculty often have their preferred textbooks they use. What tips do you have on starting conversations on OER with Faculty please Prof Gerry.**

1. Begin with having them move to digital versions of their textbooks (vs. print), 2. If you add the ISBN of the textbook into the MERLOT SmartSearch, it will provide all the open materials related to the textbook. 3. Filter the hit list for open textbooks

12. **I see that there are high quality resources shared by the AUNTEPI members. What are the steps involved if I wish to ask for collaboration with the owners of the resources?**
The catalog records of materials in MERLOT have the submitters name and authors name and frequently their email address. You can contact them with their MERLOT member profile.

13. **As MERLOT only provides a web link to a resource, what are some possible platforms for my resources to be hosted?**
MERLOT can host files as well. Much depends on what you want hosted.

14. **Am I allowed to adopt a resource, say, quiz questions shared on MERLOT and make changes for my own use?**
Yes, if the materials have a Creative Commons license, you can edit it and create a derivative work. See Melody Chin's presentation

15. **If we can apply for a membership of Merlot, will it be for the entire university? Or, is individual membership applicable?**
You as an individual become a MERLOT member. You indicate your institutional affiliation during the sign-up process