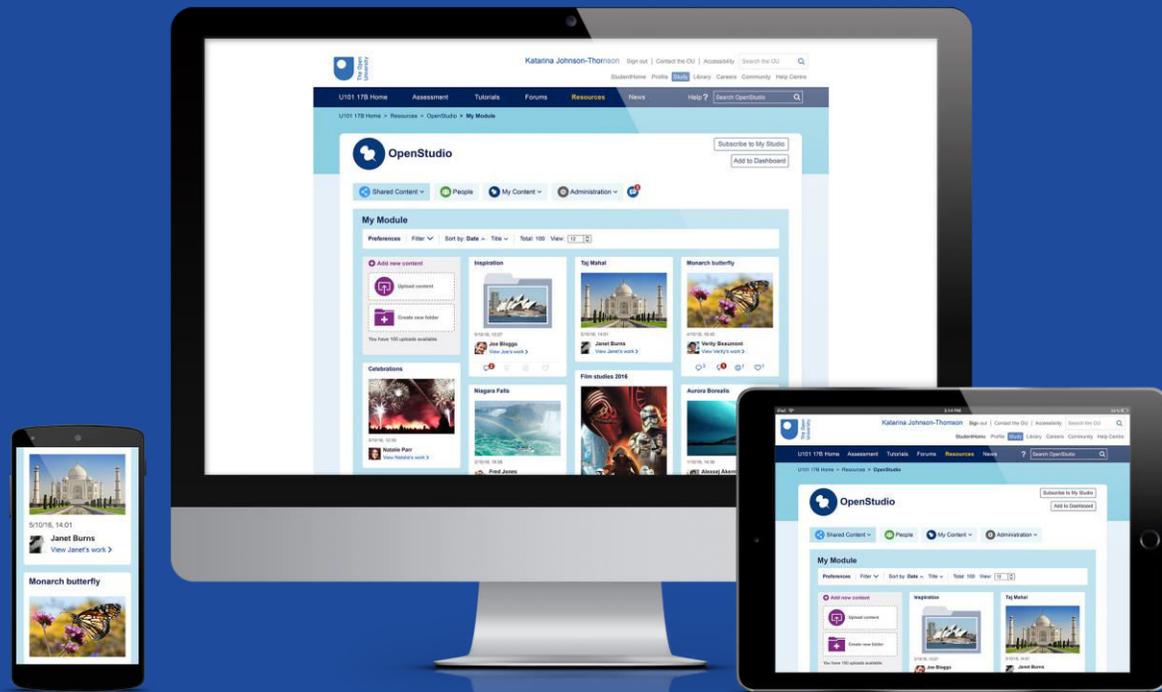


# OpenStudio - encouraging a 'create, curate and share' mind-set



Steve Parkinson, Senior Product Development Manager

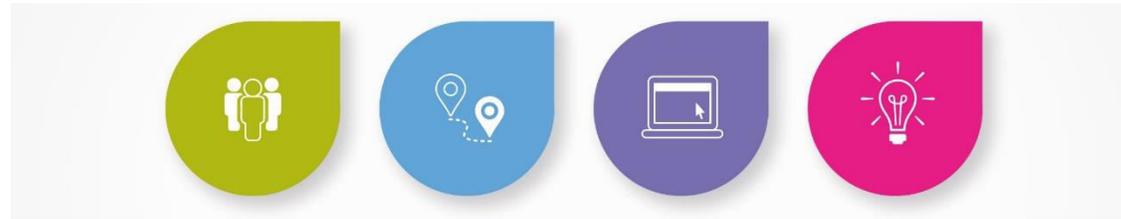
 @Steve\_p\_uk



The Open  
University

# Who we are

# The Open University



Our mission is **to be open to people, places, methods and ideas.**

We promote educational opportunity and **social justice** by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to **realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.**

# University of second chance

- 175,000 students = 175,000 stories
- ‘Non-traditional’ students: study part-time from home (or work, train, prison, submarine...)
- Life challenges



# The problem of distance

# Distance learning is complex

- Isolation, loneliness
- Self-motivation, resilience
- Engagement, easy to drop out
- Flexibility and support through technology



# The journey

# The big idea

- Started with a 'glint in the eye of an academic'
- Could we replicate the benefits of working in a physical design studio in an online environment?
- And could we offer things a physical studio couldn't?

# Design studio

Could we recreate the creative, collaborative vibe of a design studio... in a digital space?



# Why DIY?

- The safe space of a walled garden
- No surprises
- Confidence in data use
- This didn't exist anywhere else

# Iterate, iterate, iterate!

- Rich heritage of creating digital tools to enhance learning experience
- Built a lo-fi model to pilot, received feedback, iterated – rinse and repeat!
- Proved worth but functionality confusion and sub-optimal UX
- Secured strategic funding for professional quality platform with bells and whistles

# OpenStudio

# Key learning concepts

- Presentation of personal content
- Curation of content
- Sharing and discussion of student-generated content and social learning
- Activity-led formal assessment

# Share your work (or not)

The screenshot displays the OpenStudio interface for a user named Katarina Johnson-Thomson. The top navigation bar includes links for StudentHome, Profile, Study, Library, Careers, Community, and Help Centre. Below this, a dark blue header contains navigation options like U101 17B Home, Assessment, Tutorials, Forums, Resources, News, and Help, along with a search bar for OpenStudio. The main content area is titled 'My Module' and features a grid of content items. Each item includes a thumbnail image, a title, a date, and the user's name. For example, 'Inspiration' by Joe Bloggs (5/10/16, 13:27) shows a picture of the Sydney Opera House. Other items include 'Taj Mahal' by Janet Burns, 'Monarch butterfly' by Verity Beaumont, 'Celebrations' by Natalie Parr, 'Niagara Falls' by Fred Jones, 'Film studies 2016' by Peter Collins, 'Aurora Borealis' by Alexsej Akerman, and 'Infographic set 2'. A sidebar on the left offers options to 'Add new content' (upload content or create new folder) and shows 'You have 100 uploads available.' The interface also includes a 'Subscribe to My Studio' button and a 'Shared Content' dropdown menu.

- A range of content can be posted
- Your work or the work of others
- Work in groups
- Decide who you want to share with

# Become a curator

The screenshot displays the OpenStudio interface. At the top left is the OpenStudio logo. To the right are buttons for 'Subscribe to My Studio' and 'Add to Dashboard'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Shared Content', 'People', 'My Content', and 'Administration' tabs. The main content area is titled 'iCub Technology' and includes an 'Edit folder title and permissions' link. On the left, there's a 'Folder overview' section with an 'Add new content' button and two options: 'Upload post to folder' and 'Select existing post to add to folder'. Below this are four post thumbnails: 'iCub Robot' (10/10/16, 20:05), 'iCub coupled joints' (10/10/16, 19:56), '3D Prototype' (9/10/16, 15:32), and 'Production processes' (8/10/16, 18:12). On the right, a sidebar shows the 'Owner of this folder' as Katarina Johnson-Thomson, a 'Folder description' for 'iCub – Cognitive Universal Body', and 'Folder comments' with an 'Add new comment' button. At the bottom of the sidebar are icons for '0 Favourites', '1 Smiles', '0 Inspired', and '0 views', along with buttons for 'Delete folder', 'Lock folder', 'Request feedback', and 'View deleted posts'.

- Set up themed collections
- Develop a portfolio over time, or hold an in-house exhibition
- Curate the work of others
- Collate experimental results

# Improve > Share > Discuss > Improve > Share >

The screenshot shows a social media interface for a post about the movie 'The Jungle Book'. The main post includes a large image of the movie's cast, a title, a detailed description, and several comments from users. To the right, there are three panels: 'Post archive' showing a list of previous posts, 'Image meta-data' showing technical details like 'Make/Model: Canon' and 'F-Stop: 1/500f4.9', and 'Image location' showing a map of the area where the image was taken.

**Post archive**

- Film studies 2016 - The Jungle Book 5/10/16, 19:28 [View] [Delete]
- Film studies 2016 - The Jungle Book 4/10/16, 13:16 [View] [Delete]
- Film studies 2016 - The Jungle Book 3/10/16, 20:35 [View] [Delete]

**Image meta-data**

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Make/Model   | Canon     |
| Focal length | Canon     |
| Exposure     |           |
| F-Stop       | 1/500f4.9 |
| ISO          |           |

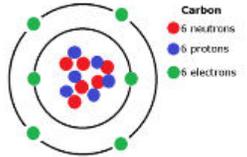
**Image location**

- Ability to discuss, comment, feedback in rich media
- Versioning allows students and tutors to see development progress
- Global reach of courses allows for a wider pool of demographic input and viewpoints

# Formal Assessment

Topic 5 Biogeochemical cycles

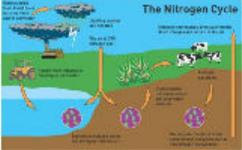
Activity 3.3 What could happen to a carbon atom?



Carbon  
6 neutrons  
6 protons  
6 electrons

What happens to a carbon atom  
25/09/18, 09:07  
Shaon Preston

Activity 4.3 Exploring other biogeochemical cycles



The Nitrogen Cycle  
25/09/18, 09:05  
Shaon Preston

Activity 5.2 Building a city in FluxCity (Task 2)



Activity 5.2 Building a city in FluxCity (Task 3)



Topic 6 Ecological interactions

Activity 4.1 Wolves in Yellowstone National Park



Activity 4.4 Evaluating written articles



Topic 7 Environmental change

Activity 1.1 Sketching a primary succession



Activity 1.1 Sketching a secondary succession



Activity 3.2 Forest sampling tool - Task 1



Activity 3.2 Forest sampling tool - Task 2

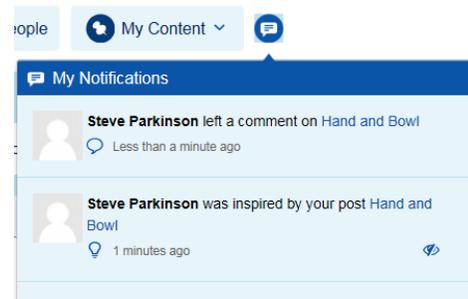


- Module teams can have pre-set slots that will hold the output of an activity learners are asked to complete
- Slots can be summative or formative
- Slot locking for formalised assessments

# Encourage Interaction



- Social interactions



- Social media style notifications ensure students don't miss the chance to interface



- Progress bars motivate use

# Impact and success

# Would you recommend us to a friend?

- Long term impact on learning gains hard to measure
- We try to avoid 'success theatre'

# Usage as a proxy for impact...

- 80 instances of OpenStudio in 2019
- Over 40,000 students have actively used OpenStudio
- Over 250,000 posts so far.

# Feedback

We ask our students what they think...

- *“Fantastic software, so user friendly and it looks so good too.”*
- *“OpenDesignStudio was invaluable in aiding my confidence and skills through feedback from my peers.”*
- *“I enjoyed using ODS to see what the other students were up to and compare how we all did the activities.”*

# Research

But of course, we're a university, there's always research to do...

- “Social engagement in OpenStudio at level 1 is linked to the gaining of confidence, skills development and student success.”
- “Social learning mechanisms represent one of the oldest and most natural pedagogies and online studios, one of the newest forms of human interaction, offer novel opportunities in which such learning can take place.”

# Recognition



Shortlisted for several national awards including the Learning Technology Awards and Guardian University Awards

# The future

# Share the love?

- We are releasing OpenStudio to the Moodle community.
- Available on GitHub initially:  
[https://github.com/moodleou/moodle-mod\\_openstudio](https://github.com/moodleou/moodle-mod_openstudio)
- Will include student, staff, and technical guidance



# Summary

# OpenStudio is about people

OpenStudio is not about automated chat bots,  
blockchain, AI, VR, AR, big data, deep  
learning...

OpenStudio is about real, heartfelt human  
interaction.

And it's time we shared it.

# Thank you!



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