

BUILDING OPEN SHARING RESOURCES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – FEBRUARY 2012

Partner:	iCommons
Location:	Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA & Oxford, England
Dates:	1 January 2008 – 31 December 2012
Grant Amount:	£308,471 (5 years)



Objective

To promote tools and practices that enable open sharing communities to collaborate globally.

Description

Building Open Shared Resources (BOSR) advances knowledge, culture and science on a global basis by encouraging authors and creators of rich content to make their material freely available for non-commercial use. iCommons works to identify, support and promote open sharing practices such as open education resources, access to knowledge, open source software, open access publishing and free culture communities.

Progress

2008

The iSummit 2008 drew over 500 participants from different disciplines, including musicians, educators, business people and film makers, with an interest in open sharing of intellectual property.

2009

iCommons became a signatory to the Public Domain Manifesto generated by Communia, the European thematic network on the digital public domain. An Open Video Conference, exploring the future of online video, was attended by 800 participants, with 8,000 viewers watching the live broadcast remotely.

iCommons co-sponsored the first Free Culture Research Workshop at Harvard Law School for the purpose of identifying research opportunities and challenges. Over 32 research articles from the disciplines of anthropology, education, law and media studies were submitted.

2010

Following the success of the Open Video Seminars in Rio and Bangalore, an Open Video Conference took place in October 2010 in New York City, which was attended by over 1,000 participants and 160 presenters. It provided an opportunity to exchange best practice ideas, discuss issues and develop collaborations for programme initiatives for low-cost open source video production tools and content.

iCommons has joined with The Open Biological and Biomedical Ontologies and the Genomic Standards Consortium (GSC) collaboratives to address issues relating to open sharing of scientific data. As a result of this partnership, it works to develop guidelines to ensure that research data is legally available for sharing with other researchers and the public.

2011

The partner outsourced research on "Policy barriers to open sharing of biodata" to Creative Commons and attended the Royal Society hearing on science as a public enterprise. iCommons presented to the European Commission's Future and Emerging Technologies Open programme, in collaboration with London School of Economics, for consideration for funding of a joint research project.

In July, the partner presented its major research programme - *Mapping Legal Barriers to Open Sharing of Biodata* - to Oxford University's HeLEX Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies.

New Development

iCommons is now a member of Communia (an EU wide consortium promoting the public domain), Open Knowledge Foundation (a UK based sharing advocacy organisation) and SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalitions).



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