

# Stretching NLE Research The Case for E-Learning

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# The Open University

- Supported distance learning
  - course materials written centrally
  - local tutor contact
- Largest UK university
  - 200,000 students worldwide, 180,000 on-line
  - 3rd largest university worldwide
- Moving towards e-learning experience
  - electronic submission of course work
  - e-delivery of course material
  - continuous assessment

# Open Universities Globally

- There are Open Universities worldwide
  - Holland, Singapore, Hong Kong, India, NZ, Arab OU, Africa etc.
  - and other distance learning schools
- Increasingly electronically based
  - penetration of technology limiting factor
  - this will change
- Language engineering techniques to support student experience/management

# OU e-Learning Research Theme

- Current research on:
  - identification of conceptual gaps in learners
  - relating diagrams and text in assessment
  - automatic assessment in structured specialist domains
  - personalising feedback
- International agenda:
  - tailor made e-learning
  - learning in minority languages

# Resources

- OU has (potentially) many resources available
  - textual resources
    - oracle (course material, model answer)
    - student submission
    - tutor feedback
    - assessment data
  - longitudinal information
  - domain specific terminology and ontologies

# The Challenge...

- Framework for collecting and annotating data
  - large and text based
  - integration of resources
    - ontology
    - oracle
    - assessment
- NLE Solutions that are portable across language type (eg Arabic?)