

Introducing Open Badges in Assessment

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What are Open Badges (OB)?

- ▶ Open Badges or Digital Badges are **visual symbols** that provide a validated indicator of achievements and communicate skills and knowledge packed with data and evidence that can be shared across the web.
- ▶ Open badges empower individuals to take their learning with them, wherever they go, building a rich picture of their lifelong learning journey (<https://openbadges.org/>).

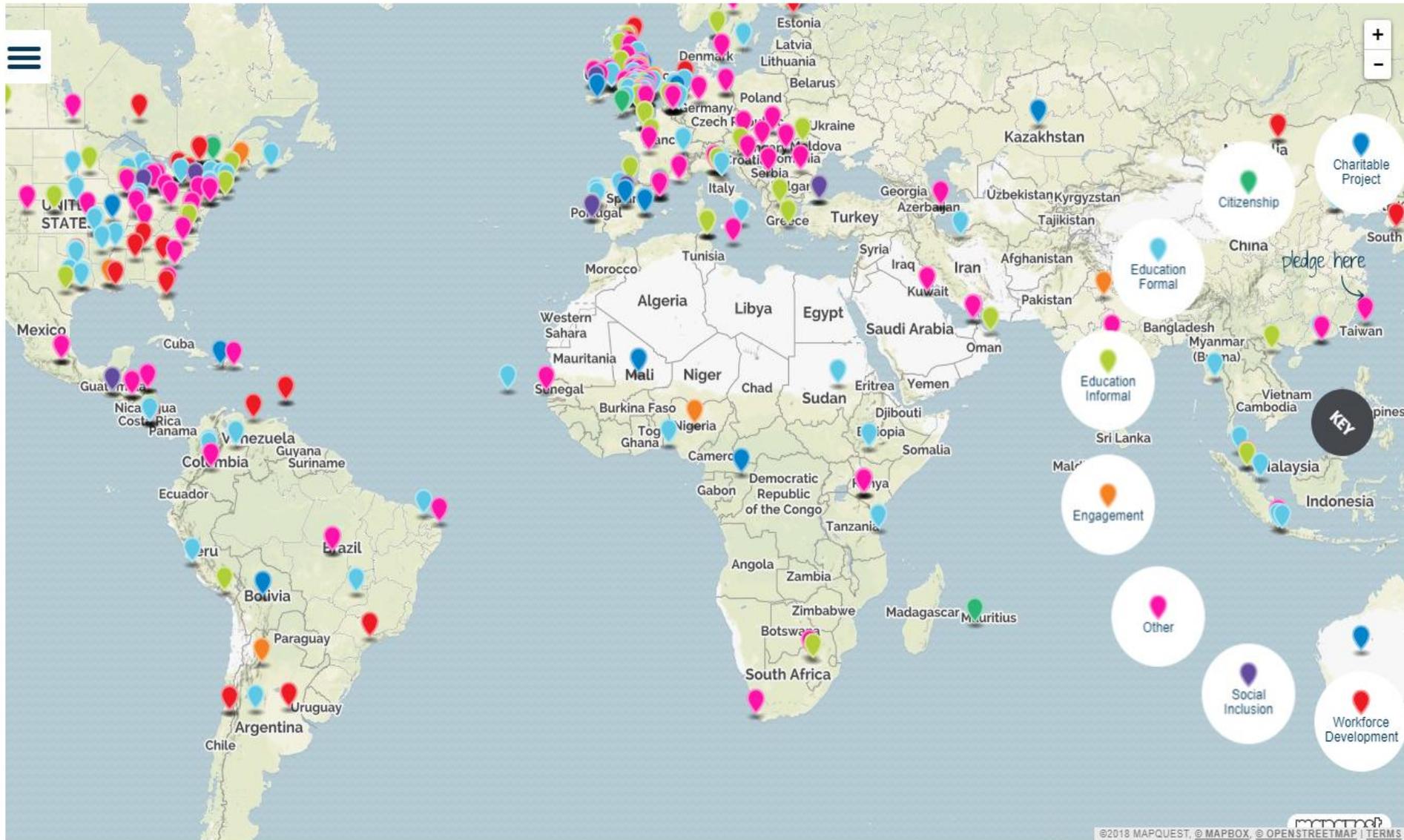


Open Badges & Formative Assessment

- ▶ Open badges are particularly useful **as part of a formative assessment process**, providing **constant feedback and tracking** of what has been learned (Brown, 2015; Casilli and Hickey, 2016, Reid and Ross, 2017).

History of Open Badges

- ▶ The concept of OB emerged from **Mozilla and MacArthur foundations**, and out of the research of Erin Knight, founding director of the Open Badges project at Mozilla (2010). The concept of Open badges derived from games technologies.
- ▶ The seminal white paper, “Open Badges for Lifelong Learning” by Knight and collaborators at Peer2Peer University and the MacArthur Foundation, described the aims and potential of the Open Badges movement.
- ▶ **Thousands of organizations** across the world already issue OB.
 - ▶ **Millions of OB** have been awarded to hundreds of thousands of recipients:
 - ▶ The Mozilla Backpack alone hosted **967,966 badges** on behalf of learners around the globe already as of October 2016.



Development of Open Badges

- ▶ Since January 1, 2017, **IMS* Global Learning Consortium**, the world's leading open standards consortium for education technology, manages the evolution of the Open Badges Specification.
- ▶ The aim is to create a global skills currency based on the Open Badges Specification, under the leadership of IMS members with the support of the Open Badges community.
- ▶ The Open Badges community is actively working toward the release of **Open Badges 2.0** (in 2012, Mozilla launched Open Badges 1.0), the most significant upgrade to the specification since its release.
- ▶ This work will take place under a licence granted by Mozilla.

Why Earn Open Badges?

- ▶ Open Badges are for everyone to recognize skills gained through a variety of experiences.
- ▶ The learner can build his/her unique collection OB and share them across the web.
- ▶ Each badge contains data about the student skills and the issuing organization within a **portable image file**.
- ▶ The student can share his/her badges in:
 - ▶ Blogs, websites, ePortfolios, and professional networks
 - ▶ Job applications
 - ▶ Social media sites - Twitter, Google+, Facebook, LinkedIn
 - ▶ Even in his/her email signature!

Getting started

- ▶ Organizations issuing Open Badges can provide **an online space** to display and share the learner's badge collections.
- ▶ There are also **free services called Backpacks** available to anyone earning Open Badges.
- ▶ A Backpack lets the learner to store and transfer his/her badges between different platforms, wherever they earn them.
- ▶ Mozilla created **the first Open Badges Backpack**, which is integrated with many issuing platforms.

Types of Open Badges

There are many types of Open Badges:

- ▶ **Outcome-Based Badges**
 - ▶ Basic Knowledge badges
 - ▶ Skills badges
 - ▶ Advanced Knowledge badges
- ▶ **Multiple level of badges** (e.g. regular badges, golden badges; Gold, Silver, Bronze)
- ▶ **Multiple Learning Pathways** (Researcher, Practitioner, Wikipedist)
- ▶ **Broken badges:** are used to point out unwanted behaviour (e.g. being late with the assignments).
- ▶ **Deconstructed badges:** large learning activities should be deconstructed into separate independent badges (e.g. peer review badge for the literature review assignment).

Learner's Perspective on Open Badges

- ▶ support learners with **different learning styles** (e.g. Activist, Reflector, Theorist, Pragmatist by Honey & Mumford, 1992).
- ▶ help learners to plan their learning goals and strategies (learning contract);
- ▶ learners can choose their own learning paths:
 - ▶ some learners can create learning objects,
 - ▶ some write a literature review or an essay
 - ▶ some can develop podcasts or videos, etc.
- ▶ could be used for self-assessment.

Open badges, multiple learning pathways and personal learning contracts form a triangle of educational tools that complement each other when used together.

Benefits associated with Open Badges

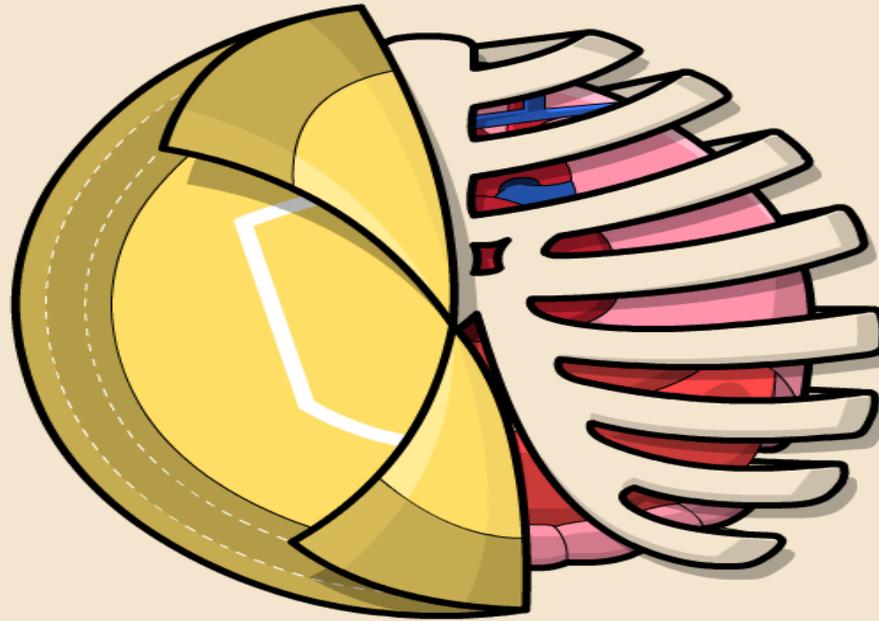
- ▶ Open Badge carries with it information about assessment, evidence and other metadata required by the badge.
- ▶ Open badges
 - ▶ can signal achievement to potential employers;
 - ▶ motivate engagement and collaboration;
 - ▶ improve retention and leveling up in learning;
 - ▶ support innovation and flexibility in the skills that matter;
 - ▶ build and formalize identity and reputation within learning communities.

Benefits associated with Open Badges

- ▶ badges offer a new pathway of lifelong learning separate from the traditional, formalized academic pathway.
- ▶ Badges highlight and recognize skills and knowledge that come from personal initiative and investigation.
- ▶ Badges quantify the soft skills of teamwork that are pivotal to success in many professions today.

Open Badges Anatomy

Badge image



OPEN BADGES
ANATOMY

Badge name

Description

Criteria

Issuer

Evidence

Date issued

Standards

Tags

Example of use of OB in the Moodle

- ▶ Knowledge-based OB
- ▶ Skill-based OB
- ▶ Multiple level of badges (e.g. regular badges, golden badges; Gold, Silver, Bronze)
- ▶ Open Badge design tools: <https://www.openbadges.me/>
- ▶ Open Badges Backpack: Mozilla Backpack
<https://backpack.openbadges.org/backpack/welcome>

Practical task

1. Please form a group of 5 persons [each group should have two persons who can use and have a teacher/designer's rights in the Moodle]
2. Please design three open badges: on knowledge, skills and learning pathways level for your existing course to assess your students achievements using the tools introduced in this workshop: <https://www.openbadges.me>
3. Please look the open badges from the learners point of view using the tools introduced in this workshop - **Mozilla Backpack**
<https://backpack.openbadges.org/backpack/welcome>
4. Please introduce your Open Badges **to other workshop participants.**

References

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Thank you for your participation!

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