

Using OERs to support the teaching of the fundamentals of conference interpreting

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An increasing number of open-access educational resources (OERs) are being made available online for use by conference interpreter trainers. These resources can be used in many different ways to support learning: as a supplement to “traditional” face-to-face classes, as a tool for self-directed learning and practice, or as components of training programs that use blended or 100% online formats, to name a few.

This presentation will show how OERs such as ORCIT are currently being used to train interpreters, using the example of an online course teaching basic conference interpreting skills. The course “Fundamentals of Conference Interpreting” is a full-year (24-week) entry-level course that forms part of the curriculum of the Master of Conference Interpreting (Glendon College, Toronto), the first year of which is taught 100% online to a student body spread around the world. Fundamentals of Conference Interpreting makes use of ORCIT’s interactive modules—as well as other OERs such as SCICtrain, videos, blogs, etc.—to support the students’ acquisition of basic conference interpreting skills.

During the presentation, we will learn about this course’s objectives and structure and see how OERs are incorporated into the weekly coursework and activities. We will discuss the benefits of using OERs in this particular context, looking, for example, at how the use of OERs can help “flip” the online classroom.

The presentation will also include considerations of how different OERs might be appropriate for use at different skill levels and contexts, and look at possible ways to optimise the current online resource offering.