

Abstract

The dissertation deals with the issue of open educational resources (OER) in the context of environmental studies. The thesis has been framed as a set of four thematically related studies published as peer-reviewed articles in relevant professional journals. The introductory section deals with the broader context of the issue of open educational resources and clarifies the thematic context of individual publications. The first study discusses the issue of open educational resources, the evaluation of their quality and possibilities of use in environmental disciplines; at the same time, it analyzes various types of resources available for environmental education in the Czech environment. Based on this, research was carried out among students of environmental disciplines at Czech universities on a sample of 233 respondents. The results of the research are presented in the second study, which focuses on quality assessment, while the third study deals with the general methods of OER use. Findings show that the most widely used resource among students is Wikipedia, which they also consider to be a relatively high-quality resource. For these reasons, the last study focuses further on Wikipedia and the proposed verifiability of claims by respected sources as a quality indicator for the use of Wikipedia in environmental education at the higher education level. In total, 1,020 statements have been analyzed using this indicator in environmental articles on Czech Wikipedia with the highest number of page views; the results presented in the final study show that these articles contain a number of unreferenced statements and their use for higher educational purposes is thus problematic.

Keywords

Open educational resources; Wikipedia; environmental disciplines; information quality