



Factor to Evaluate	Questions to Address	Method(s)	Measure of Success	Evidence from the project
Policies (for the blog)	Can policies be agreed between the two Departments (Ox/Cam)?		Agreed policies in place (Editorial, Comments, Complaints etc.)	<p>Policies were agreed very early on in the project between the two Universities, see Statement of purpose http://politicsinspires.org/about/</p> <p>Comments policy http://politicsinspires.org/comments/</p> <p>Editorial guidelines http://politicsinspires.net/about/editorial/</p> <p>An Oversight Team consisting of members from both Universities was put in place at the start of the project. The responsibilities of this team include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into the direction of the blog • To refer/approve/veto sensitive material for action • To remove inappropriate material • To review material periodically to ensure compliance with editorial guidelines • To moderate comments
Legal	Can a standard legal agreement/licence be agreed between the two Universities (Ox/Cam)?		Agreed CC licence in place plus legal workflow	Lengthy consultation took place between the Legal Services Departments of both Universities (see Appendix 3). The main issue requiring resolution was the ownership of the website – would Oxford and Cambridge share the ownership of the site and therefore share the responsibilities? As the domain name was registered to Oxford and the development work was undertaken by Oxford (through the Triton project), it was agreed that Oxford would run and administer the site and Cambridge would give permission for use of their

				<p>branding. It was agreed that the following legal documents would appear on the site: Suitably modified version of Oxford's website terms and conditions (Legal notice) http://politicsinspires.org/legal-notice/ Accessibility statement http://politicsinspires.org/accessibility-statement/ Privacy policy http://politicsinspires.org/privacy-policy/ Comments policy http://politicsinspires.org/comments/ Takedown policy http://politicsinspires.org/takedown-policy/ The Creative Commons licence (BY-SA) In addition, Cambridge suggested a Data sharing agreement as registrants' emails would be available to Oversight Team members from both Universities.</p>
Cross-institutional working (contributions)	Is the blog demonstrating a collaboration between the two Universities?	Activity on the blog	Regular posting from both Universities	<p>Number of posts from each University up to 18th August 2011: Oxford: 40 Cambridge: 7 Achieving similar levels of presence from both universities whilst the site has been under construction has been challenging; Cambridge has been slower to show active engagement with the site in the form of posts. It is almost certainly the case that this is related to the project being led by an Oxford-based team with the principal stakeholder being the Oxford politics department. However, the Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge has indicated that they are committed to the success of the blog and the two departments will continue to progress the collaboration. It is anticipated that following a joint launch event and more publicity that the collaboration will become more balanced.</p>

Usability of blog	Design, structure, navigation etc. Ease of use	Feedback from users, tracking usage stats	Positive feedback, numbers of users increases	<p>Following feedback at the student focus group (see Appendix 1) the design of the blog was modified to improve the user experience. This received positive feedback within the DPIR: “I have had very positive feedback so far regarding the refreshed design of the blog – so thanks again!” Research Support and Communications Officer “The revised site looks very good and recent activity is encouraging.” Bodleian Social Science Librarian</p> <p>To assist users in their use of the blog site, various user guides and instructional videos were made available (http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/triton/resources/)</p> <p>Use of the site was tracked by use of Google Analytics (see <i>Figure A1</i> below) and this tool will be used going forward by the DPIR to monitor use of the site, particularly after the official launch in Autumn 2011.</p>
Effectiveness of dynamic collections and learning path creator tool	Are the learning paths providing effective learning experiences for the user community? Can dynamic feeds & aggregation tools be used to effectively present high-quality subject-relevant content to users?	Student focus group, feedback from users, survey	Positive feedback, increasing usage stats, downloads etc	<p>Dynamic collections and learning path creator tool were only released at the end of the project so evidence of use is limited. However, the four main dynamic collections received a significant number of visits in only 3 weeks (without any announcement or publicity): Political theory 75 Comparative government 46 International relations 38 European politics & society 49</p> <p>Items within dynamic collections show the number of ‘visits’ per item.</p>

				Feedback from students indicated that quality and authenticity of content was important (see feedback in Appendix 1). To address this community 'curation' was enabled by adding a 'like' button against each item within the dynamic collection. By clicking on this users can move items to a 'popular' section thereby providing an informal level of recommendation.
Outputs deposited in JorumOpen	Can sets of OER outputs/pathways be deposited in JorumOpen?	Pathways placed in JorumOpen	Pathways placed in JorumOpen	All blog posts, dynamic collections and learning paths will be submitted to Jorum as URLs. We have been unable to submit RSS feeds to Jorum because we have been told that they will only accept the licence URL " http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/ ". Our content uses CC-BY-SA. This has been referred to JISC Programme Managers.
Sustainability	Is the framework sustainable by the department with the support of local support staff (Webmaster/Research co-ordinator)?		Handover in stage 3 of the project to department webmaster	DPIR are establishing an on-going operational plan for the blog. There are two priorities: technical support to ensure maintenance issues are addressed and ongoing support for content. The project team have supported the handover by supplying full site documentation, meetings with key staff members, and funding to support work during the handover period. <i>Politics in Spires</i> is fully in line with the department's communication aims and embedded within the priorities of the staff member with responsibility for the site.
Reproducible in other subject areas?	Can this framework of discoverability be generalised for use in other subject areas?			All development has been based on a methodology of reproducibility: we have used the default WordPress TwentyTen theme plus have reused and remixed existing plugins so that the site maintains as generic a nature a possible with reduced dependency on any externally developed code. Tools, code, plugins etc. developed as part of this project have all been shared for reuse.

				<i>Politics in Spires</i> has been demonstrated to a new department within Oxford University encouraging them to think of their practice in this area.
Impact	Can users contribute/comment/add value to the resources? Has a community of users been attracted to augment sustainability?	Student focus group, feedback from users, usage stats	Positive feedback, increasing usage stats, downloads etc	Student engagement has been placed at the centre of our developments and their involvement as content creators has been successful (e.g. Editor and Ambassadors). Community feedback has been facilitated through the 'like' option within dynamic collections. The learning path creator tool enables a core set of registered users to select material from the internet and create a 'path' or set of materials on a particular topic. This encourages community development of content and also supports sustainability as the 'paths' can be created without technical support.



Figure A1. Graph showing the number of site visits by week for *Politics in Spires*. Visits show an upward trend with some peaks coinciding with new posts. There has not been a significant level of publicity about the blog during the development phase but a launch and communication strategy has been put in place by DPIR which will increase the exposure of the site.