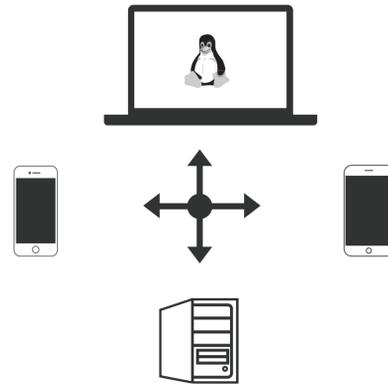


HTTP, HTML, TCP/IP, SSL, etc. are all royalty-free open standards and are the building blocks of the Internet



Open standards like these allow for interoperability between various devices and platforms.

Microsoft Tax Can you imagine a situation where you'd have to pay a Microsoft Tax for accessing governmental services?

CIS with the help of other free software activists helped shaped the National Open Standards Policy, which now requires all central government departments to use open standards. We now have one of the best such policy in the world (better than the EU's), which requires usage of "Royalty-Free" standards (meaning ordinary citizens don't have to pay licence fees to a software company just to be able to interact with the government).

CIS has also helped the Iraqi government draft its open standards policy and its e-governance interoperability framework.



OER enable free (gratis + libre) access to textbooks, classroom lecture videos, etc., in which a core part of the aim is enabling re-contextualisation, translation, and other such transformations without having to ask for permission. In India, the classroom lectures from IITs have been filmed as part of the National Mission on Education and ICT (NMEICT), and these lectures are being used not only by students in other Indian universities, but by professors too.

North Countries ←----- Exchange of knowledge -----→ **South Countries**

Importantly, OERs can also help reverse the one-way flow of knowledge from North (rich/developed) countries to the South. For instance, a lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, who happens to be a world authority on buruli ulcer has developed an OER module which is being used by the World Health Organisation and the University of Michigan.

CIS has engaged with the National Institute of Open Schooling (the world's largest open school) and the NMEICT in helping them with the copyright licensing of OER, and we wish to ensure the content created under the "Aakaash" tablet programme are also licensed openly.



Innovation and creativity are fostered through openness and collaboration. The advent of the Internet radically defined what it means to be open and collaborative. The Internet itself is built upon open standards and free/libre/open source software.