# Free/Libre Open Technologies for Science and Education



Rafael P. Pezzi Instituto de Física – UFRGS





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# Outline

- Open and Citizen Science
- Open Educational Resources
- Open Knowledge
- Scientific Instruments
- Open entrepreneurship
- Final remarks

# Communication







# The birth of the WWW

• 1993 – CERN put the WWW software in the public domain



 Example of how opening up methods for the practice of science can benefit society

http://home.web.cern.ch/about/updates/2013/04/twenty-years-free-open-web Image: Tim Barners-Lee

# **Citizen Science and Open Science**



- Citizen monitoring of the Fukushima
  accident in 2011
- Methods and data openly accessible to any citizen



# **Open Knowledge**

How to allow effective use of knowledge available in the internet

- Properties
  - Use
  - Study
  - Modification
  - Sharing

- Requirements
  - Legal
  - Technical

# Licensing

- Free software licenses
  - GPL, Apache, MIT, ...
- Content Licenses
  - Creative Commons
- Open Hardware
  - CERN Open Hardware License, TAPR

## Open Educational Resources (OER)



UNESCO OER logo (portuguese translation)

- Concept adopted by UNESCO in 2002
- the UNESCO World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress released the 2012 Paris OER Declaration which called on governments to openly license publicly funded educational materials.

## Open Educational Resources (OER)



UNESCO OER logo (portuguese translation)

- "Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning and research materials that are in public domain or open licensed.."
- "... it's availability in open technical formats facilitates the potential reuse of digital available materials"
  - UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning in collaboration with OER-Brazil Community (2011)
    - http://rea.net.br/site/o-que-e-rea/

# Scientific and educational Instruments

#### **Building Research Equipment** with Free, Open-Source Hardware

Joshua M. Pearce

www.sciencemag.org **SCIENCE** VOL 337 14 SEPTEMBER 2012 *Published by AAAS* 

Open source 3D printer





http://www.appropedia.org/Open-source\_lab\_jack

# 8-fold reduction in equipment cost

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reprap

# **CERN** Open Hardware

 Analog/Digital converter: 14bits resolution, 100 MHz sample rate



#### http://www.ohwr.org/projects/fmc-adc-100m14b4cha/wiki

## Center for academic technology



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- Technologies that can be used, studied, modified and distributed
  - Four properties of knowledge
- Scientific and educational applications
- Researching methods of developments, licenses, tools and applications of free/libre technologies

## http://cta.if.ufrgs.br

# Modular weather station for education and citizen science

- Weather and environmental monitoring (ex. air quality)
  - Pedagogy for technological and scientific initiation
  - Teaching physics, chemistry, math, geography, engeneering
- Assembly and use in schools, households, agriculture...
- Pilot project: students learn how to build and manage a prototype station, then disseminate their knowledge (including to teachers) in workshops

# Open hardware prototype



- TODO:
  - Air quality
  - Build a network
    - Communication protocol
    - Database





## Modular weather station: sample data





# Open technologies in the market

- Reference: free-software based business
  - Consulting
  - Supportting
  - Training
  - Tailored development
- Demand for open technologies is much higher than the supply. See: Elphel Open Source Camera Licensing Page

## Challenges

 Open standards and open tools for the development of open technologies

 CAD software for electronic schematics and circuit board designt



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# **Final remarks**

- Openness in science and education, their methods, and outcomes
  - Results in benefits to the society
  - Qualifies education (Open educational Resources - OER)
  - Democratizes knowledge

# Thanks for your attention

Rafael Pezzi rafael.pezzi@ufrgs.br



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