



**The 1st AOU International Conference on
Open Learning:
Role, Challenges, and Aspirations**

25-27 November 2013

Arab Open University

Kuwait

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2nd Call for Paper

Introduction

The arrival of the modern knowledge society necessitates changes in educational processes, new forms of education and training, and new skills. With the rapid development of an open learning climate and culture of learning by the virtue of the ICT, the educational institutions are enabled to better meet the demands of the public. This will help to spread educational resources in a way to accommodate different learning pathways, and eventually widens the participation and sharing the learning experiences. This will raise the necessity of a well-defined role of the relevant stakeholders of the education and academic institutions. Further, this will upsurge both the challenges and aspirations associated to this learning environment. *The 1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* comes to contribute to exploring the future tools, techniques, and the challenges associated to the development of effective educational system. The conference is organized by the Arab Open University (AOU) headquarter in Kuwait in collaboration with the Regional Center for Development of Educational Software (RedSOFT).

This international Conference on open and blended learning will bring together a range of academics, researchers, practitioners, and decision makers from different countries and institutions. The conference will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the new trends in open learning and technology and solutions to the challenges of open learning. The papers will be presented in Arabic and in English (instant translation will be available).

The 1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations will bring together higher education institutions, distance education institutions, and conventional education institutions that apply methodologies based on open and distance education technologies in order to motivate the educational system components; teachers, learners, researchers, specialists and educational institutions to participate in its rich activities, sessions, and workshops. The changing technology dimension: development of networking tools, new platforms and standards, and interoperability questions, will also be addressed.

Conference Goals

1. To enhance the interest about the blended learning for a greater array of educational institutions in order to improve the overall state of education in the Arab world
2. To identify the latest trends, expectations, and challenges facing open learning and e-learning in general
3. To explore the contingencies to make sound decisions in determining the future teaching and learning roadmap
4. To expose learners to better interaction with open learning tools and services.
5. To explore the latest technologies and methodologies that enable easy integration and interaction with learning management systems (LMSs).

6. To enhance the awareness of the role of different society institutions and organizations to better support the new emerging learning systems.
7. To set general foundation for high quality Arabic integrated open and blended learning environment according to international standards
8. To bring together a diverse group of people from around the world to share the different lessons from the field in order to move blended learning from a trending of a unique instructional modality to the norm of learning

Main Objectives

- Increasing awareness about the importance of open learning and its role in development in the world and specifically in the Arab region.
- Provoking the interest in independent learning, and prepare the different educational system stakeholders for lifelong learning
- Spreading awareness about quality standards and quality assurance in open learning.
- Suggesting solutions to the different challenges (technological, psycho-social and bureaucratic) in open learning.

Benefits of the Conference

- Exchange of local and international experiences in the open and blended learning
- Motivation of interaction between academic staff, students, institutions and administrative
- Familiarization with the new interactive multimedia applications that can be used in the open learning environment
- Bringing together varied groups of people with different perspectives, seeking to bring top research practices together into one location, for the purposes of helping practitioners find ways to put open learning goals into practice

Conference Themes

Authors are invited to submit original and unpublished work in keeping with the following themes:

Theme 1: Techniques and methods of open learning and the required learning resources.

- Open learning environments.
- Open learning Systems and Tools
- Intelligent user Interfaces
- Learning Management Systems.
- Open learning: Security and Privacy
- Assessing student learning in blended environments
- Academic integrity (plagiarism, etc.)
- Distributed open learning environments
- Disabilities and learning difficulties

Theme 2: Academic accreditation for open learning degrees and institutions

- Open learning Curricula Strategies.
- Instructional Design: Theories and Models.
- Policies, legislation and regulatory bodies for open learning
- Pedagogical Issues in Development.
- Instructor's Role in Design and Development Content.

Theme 3: International trends and experiences in open learning

- Smart Classes tools
- Intelligent Open learning Technologies: Future Trends
- Mobile Learning (m-Learning).
- Integrated blended learning.
- Role of Multimedia in open learning
- Simulations and virtual learning environments
- Web 2.0 technologies and the classroom

Theme 4: Quality assurance in open learning

- General Standards and Controls
- Standards for Measuring Performance and evaluating open learning activities.
- Arab Standards in the areas of open learning.
- Recent trends in monitoring, measuring and evaluating open learning systems.
- Quality control standards for open learning difficulties
- Evaluation of Learning technologies

Theme 5: The role of open learning in development

- Awareness of blended learning culture
- Social and Cultural Challenges
- Blended programs and offerings to increase retention of working students
- Ethical and Professional Responsibilities
- Readiness of Teaching Staff and School Departments
- Communication and marketing plans for student/faculty information

Theme 6: Success stories in open learning

- Impact of blended learning technologies on the learning process
- Strategies to engage faculty and address their motivations
- Best practices in faculty development, training, and support
- Successful examples of the use of learning analytics to promote student success
- Use of social networks

Conference Workshops

Workshops and open discussion panels will be held during the conference related to open learning. Topics will discuss four ideas from the following proposed ones:

1	Cloud Computing Standards privacy, security, categorization, and coordination
2	Strategic planning, designing, and building an interactive blended learning course
3	Latest technologies about Video tools for teaching and learning
4	Optimising feedback for student motivation and engagement

Venue and Dates

The *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* will be held from 25 to 27 November 2013 at Arab Open University – Kuwait.

Conference Languages

The official languages of the conference will be English and Arabic. Translation will be available throughout the conference sessions.

Proceedings

Conference papers will be published in special proceedings prior to the conference and will be distributed to all participants along with CDs.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline:	May 31, 2013
Notification to Authors:	June 30, 2013
Early Registration Deadline:	July 31, 2013
Final Camera-Ready Submission:	September 30, 2013
Late Registration Deadline:	October 31, 2013
Conference:	November 25-27, 2013

Guidelines for Full and Short Papers

The *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning* invites scientists, researchers and specialists in open learning to submit papers that represent a new addition to the field (unpublished papers). Authors should submit their papers in accordance with the specified *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning* template downloadable from the conference website. In general, authors should adhere to the following requirements for their submissions:

- **Full Papers** – These include mainly accomplished research results and have 15 pages at the maximum (15,000 words). Refer to the guidelines for preparing the papers.
- **Short Papers** – These are mostly composed of work in progress reports or fresh developments and have 6 pages at maximum (6,000 words). Refer to the guidelines for preparing the papers.
- **Posters** – These present results from projects and processes and procedures used in open and distance learning. Submit a one-page description of the poster.

The papers should be prepared in Microsoft Word format. Papers can be submitted in English or Arabic. The author(s) should provide a title, the name(s) of the author(s), author affiliation(s), address(es), email addresses, and three keywords

Font type

1. The text should be in Times.

Title

2. The title of the paper should be 14-point, in capital and lower case letters, and centered.

Author information

3. Use 10-point for the author name(s), 9-point for affiliation(s) and mailing address(es), and 8-point for email address(es).
4. The naming convention, with given names preceding surnames, should be used.
5. The author information should appear below the title, with one blank line after the title.

Abstract

6. The abstract submitted with the full and short papers should be between 100 and 150 words and should appear at the beginning of the paper. It should be 9-point. There should be two blank (10-point) lines before and after the abstract.

Keywords

7. Include three keywords.
8. The keywords should be 9-point and appear below the abstract, with one blank (10-point) line after the abstract.

Main text

9. Text throughout the paper should be 10-point Times, single space, and justified. Italic type may be used to emphasize words in running text.
10. Headings should be in capital and lower case letters (i.e., nouns, verbs, and all other words except articles, prepositions, and conjunctions should be set with an initial capital) and should, with the exception of the paper title, be aligned left. The font sizes for headings are as follows.

Title (centered) - 14 point, **bold**

1st-level heading - 12 point, **bold**

2nd-level heading - 10 point, **bold**

3rd-level heading - 10 point, *italic*

11. One blank line should appear between the parts of the paper (i.e. introduction, literature review, methods and procedures, results, conclusion, references).
12. Abbreviations should comply with the standard use. They should be given in full format at the first place they are used.

Tables and figures

13. Tables should be numbered and have captions which appear above them.
14. Figures should be numbered and have captions which appear under them.
15. Captions should be 9-point.

References

16. The author (date) method of citation in the text should be used. For example, Ali (2012) proposed or According to Hameed (2011).
17. All references that are cited in the text must be provided in the reference list. The references must be in APA format and arranged alphabetically at the end of the paper.

Paper Submission

Papers should be submitted electronically through the conference website <http://col.aou.edu.kw> or emailed to the Scientific Committee at col@aou.edu.kw **no later than May 31, 2013**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their papers and comments or modifications required **no later than June 30, 2013**.

Review Process

The papers submitted to the conference must be the authors own contributions and have not been copied in whole or in part from other works. Each submission is anonymously reviewed by an average of two independent reviewers, to ensure the high standard and quality of each accepted submission.

Registration Fees

Conference:

- Presenters of scientific papers: Exempted from registration fees
- Governmental agencies, institutions, and companies :KD 150 (US \$ 480)
- Individuals: KD 50 (US \$ 180)
- Students & People with special needs: Exempted from registration fees

Workshops:

- Governmental agencies, institutions and companies: KD 150 (US \$ 480)
- Individuals: KD 75 (US \$ 270)

Travel and Accommodation

Participants will be responsible for their own expenses including travel, accommodation and ground transportation. *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* organizing committee will provide assistance in securing hotel reservations, entry visas (when needed) to Kuwait, and reception at the airport.

Conference Award

The *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* Higher Organizing Committee will present awards for the best three scientific papers submitted on one of the themes of the conference, in accordance with the following criteria:

- Paper's relevance for one of the current open learning problems.
- Paper's originality and excellence with regard to the development of optimal solutions for open learning systems.
- Paper's clarity and precision of expression, information and results obtained.

The value of the awards will be as follows:

- 1) First paper winner will receive: US \$ **3000**
- 2) Second paper winner will receive: US \$ **2000**
- 3) Third paper winner will receive: US \$ **1000**

- ❖ The *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* encourages postgraduate students at universities (master's and doctoral candidates) to submit scientific papers and compete for the award.
- ❖ The paper selected for the award will be carefully reviewed by highly respected Scientific members. It should adhere to the scope of the *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations*. The award will be presented during the *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations* along with an appraisal and acknowledgement certificate.
- ❖ For more information, please visit <http://col.aou.edu.kw>

Scientific Committee Members

- Prof. Mustapha Achoui (Chair) The Arab Open University
- Prof. Marwan Al Akaidi The Arab Open University
- Prof. Ahmed Tolba The Arab Open University
- Prof. Salim Al Ghamdi The Arab Open University
- Prof. Tim Blackman The Open University-UK
- Prof. Sir John Daniel Beijing DeTao Master Academy- China
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- Prof. Terry Anderson Athabasca University, Canada
- Prof. Samir Attallah SIM University – Singapore
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- Eng. Nader Marafie (Chair) The Regional Center for Development of Educational Software
- Dr. Naser Zaeri The Arab Open University
- Dr. Mohamed Dorgham The Regional Center for Development of Educational Software
- Mr. Mohammad Saeed The Arab Open University

Correspondence

All correspondence related to the conference should be addressed to:

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25 - 27 November 2013 - State of Kuwait

Registration Form

To be filled by all participants:

Full Name:

Job Title: Organization:

Postal Address:
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.....

Phone Number: Work: Mobile:

Fax: E-mail:

Type of Participation: I will be pleased to attend.
 I will be accompanied by persons.
 I intend to make a presentation \

Signature: -----

Date: -----

Registration Fees:

Conference:

- Presenters of scientific papers: KD 100 (US \$ 335)
- Governmental agencies, institutions, and companies :KD 150 (US \$ 480)
- Individuals: KD 50 (US \$ 180)
- Students & People with special needs: Exempted from registration fees

Workshops:

- Governmental agencies, institutions and companies: KD 150 (US \$ 480)
- Individuals: KD 75 (US \$ 270)
- Students & People with special needs: KD 50 (US \$ 180)

- ❖ Form to be send by email to: col@aou.edu.kw or register through website: <http://col.aou.edu.kw>
- ❖ Payable by cheque to: *1st AOU International Conference on Open Learning: Role, Challenges, and Aspirations*
- ❖ Kuwait National Bank – Shuwaikh Branch
Account number: 2006498490
Swift Code: NBOKKWKW
IBAN: KW66NBOK0000000000002006498490

Registration should be sent **no later than October 31, 2013**