The suitability of OER in Open Distance Learning

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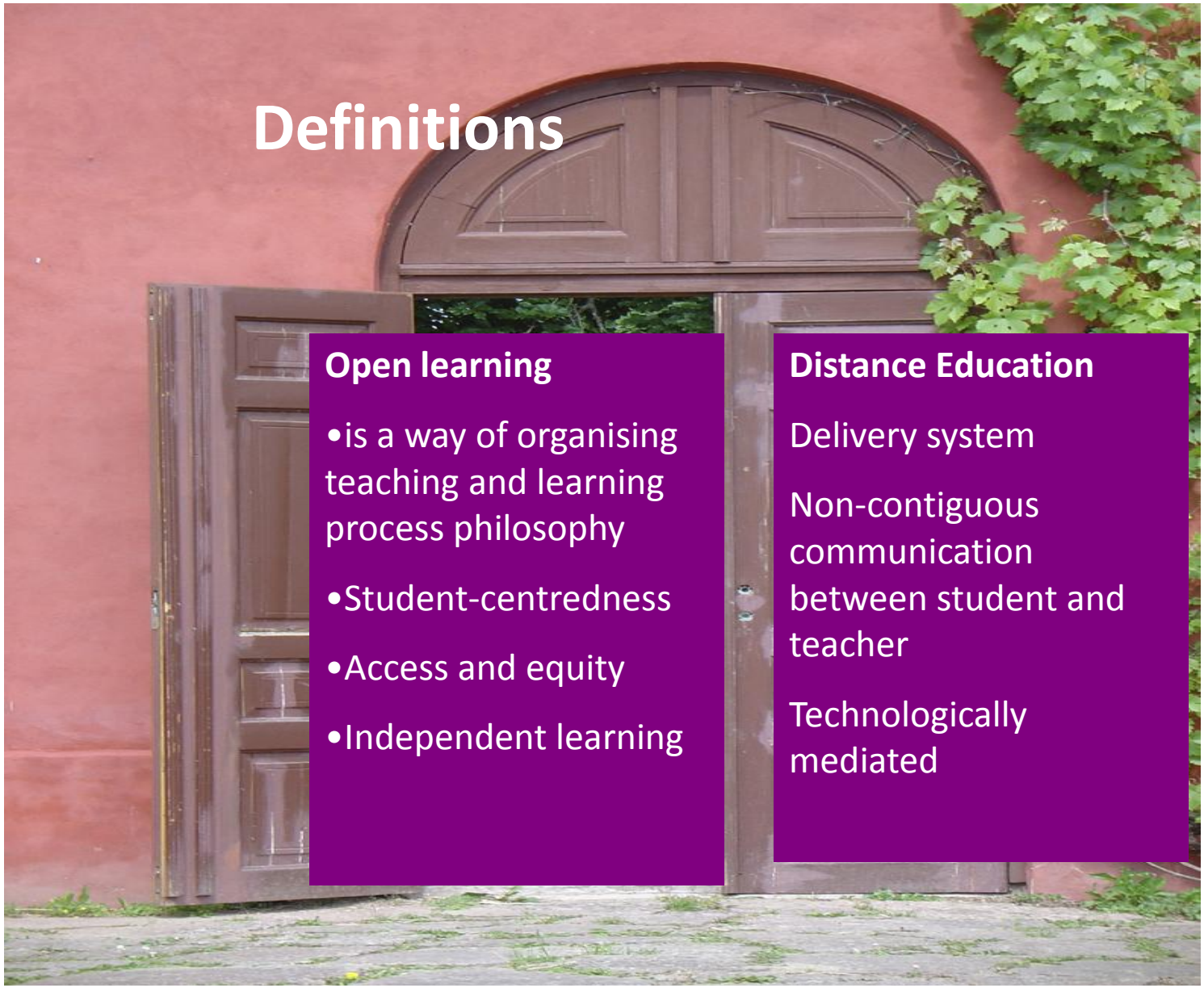
This presentation focuses on

1. What is ODL
2. Why ODL?
3. What is OER
4. Why OER
5. Similarities
6. Challenges



Definitions

Open learning

- is a way of organising teaching and learning process philosophy
- Student-centredness
- Access and equity
- Independent learning

Distance Education

Delivery system

Non-contiguous communication between student and teacher

Technologically mediated

What is ODL? DT + DL

Distance Learning – a process whereby the student learns while separated from the tutor/teacher (Keegan, 1986)

Open Learning - is any form of learning with strong emphasis on flexibility and learner centredness. It is open in terms of operation, access, delivery and interpretation (Paine, 1989; Rowntree, 1992)

Open distance learning

It is aimed at bridging the time, geographical, economic, social, educational and communication distance between student and institution, student and academics, student and courseware and student and peers. It focuses on **removing barriers** to **access** learning, **flexibility** of learning provision, **student – centredness** supporting students.

The CoL handbook for distance education practitioners identified three key characteristics of ODL:

- Accessibility
- Flexibility – physical and educational flexibility.
- Student-centredness

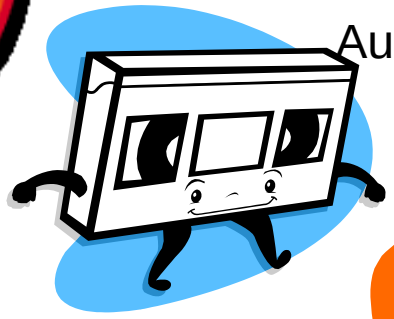
Adaptability
Reach

Why ODL?

- Demand push for higher education
- Response to government policies
- Widening of participation in higher education
- Accessibility to and massification of education
- Cost effectiveness
- Integration of work and learning
- Flexibility of operation
- Adaptability for any purpose

Printed material

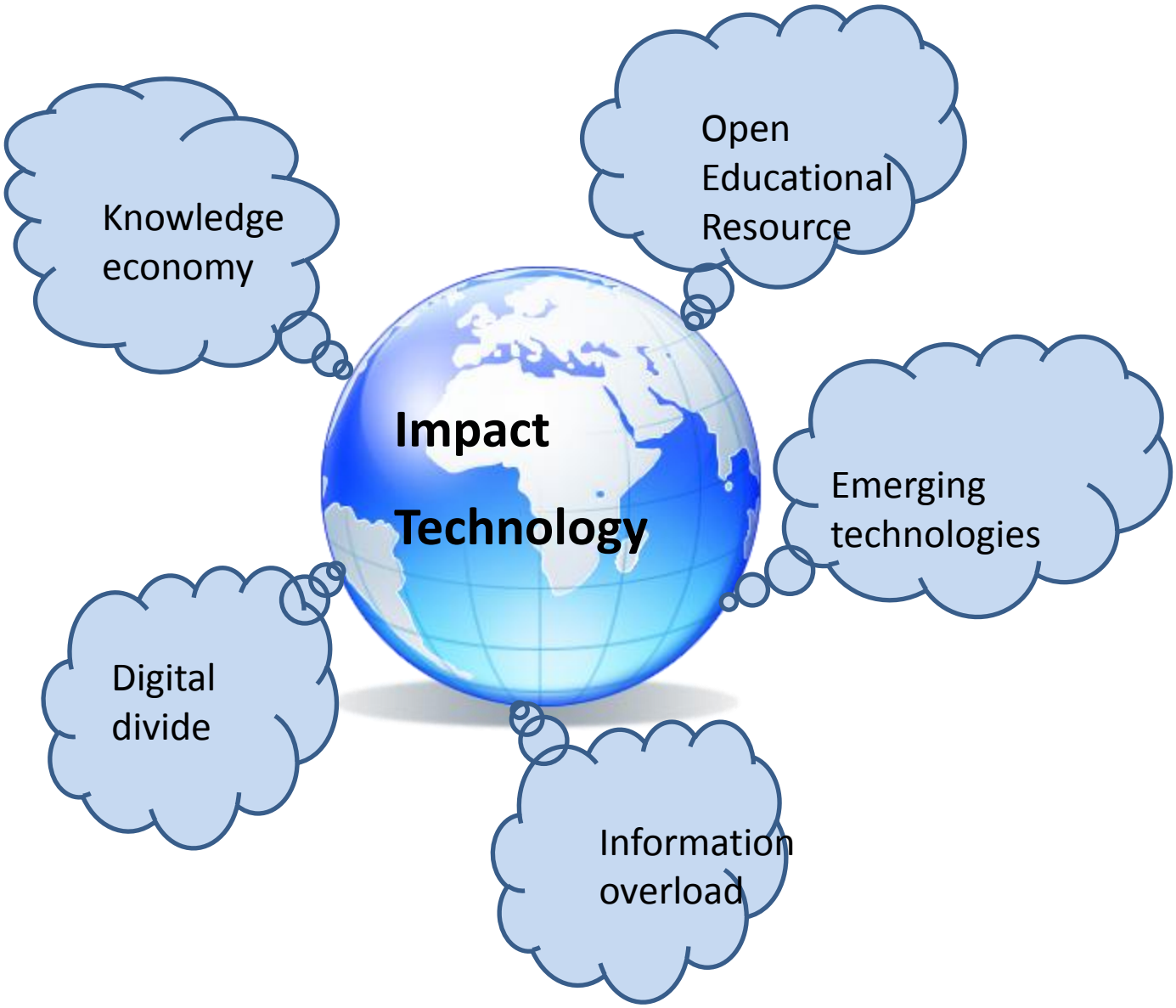
Tele, video conferencing



Audio and videotapes

WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF SHORTENING THE DISTANCE

Computers, podcasting cellphones


Knowledge economy
Open Educational Resource
Impact
Technology
Emerging technologies
Digital divide
Information overload

Technology has

revolutionalised

the way we socialise,

the way we communicate and

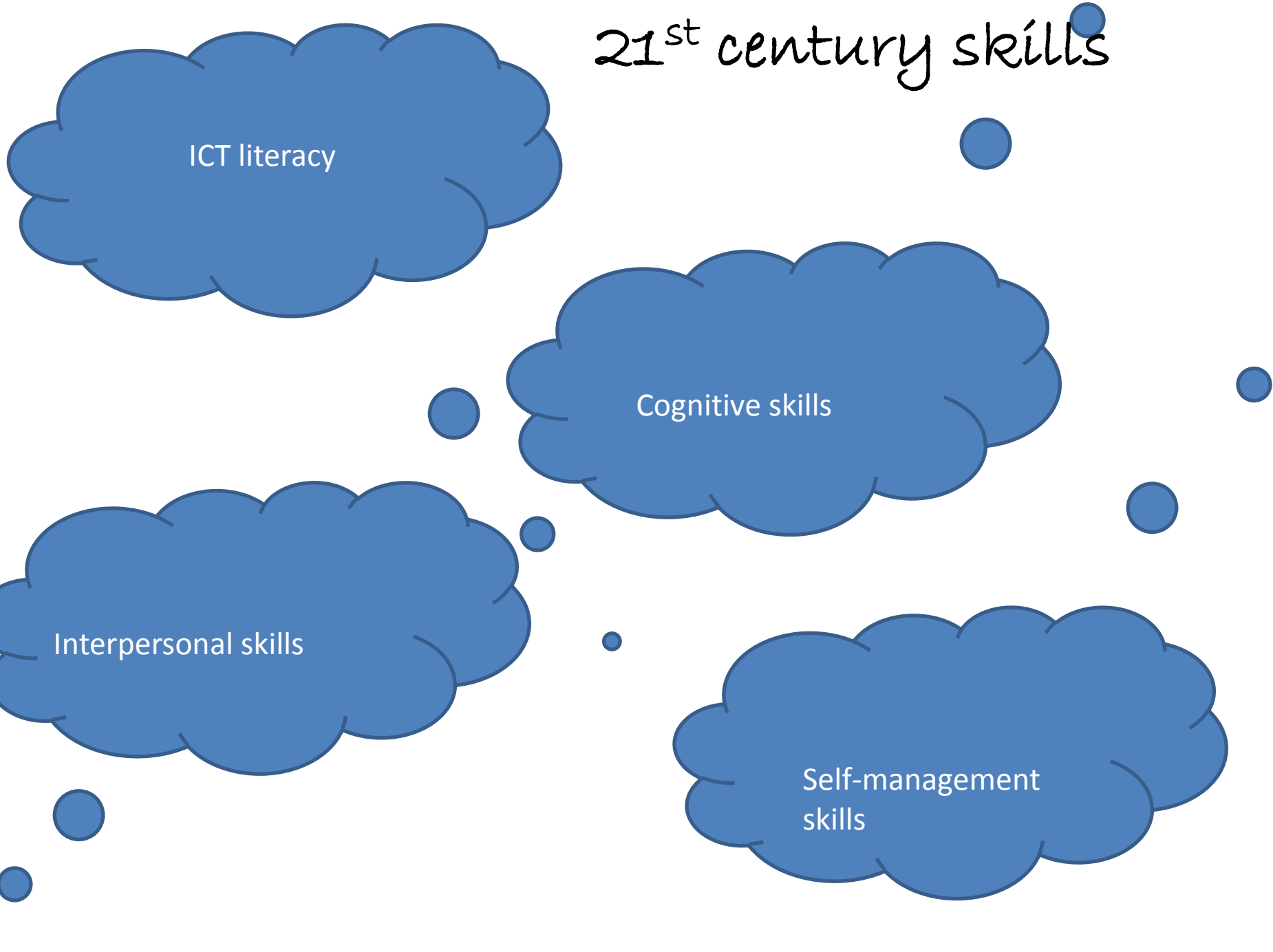
the way we learn.

- Digital immigrants
  - Engage more with content
  - Prints out e-mails

- Digital natives
  - Have hypertexts minds
  - Short attention spans
  - Focus on tools they use

» Prensky, 2005

21st century skills



What is Open Educational Resources

- Educational resources (reference materials, reading lists, study material, experiments, demonstrations, curricula and teachers guide
- Freely available for use by educators and student
- Freely available over the web and the internet

Why OER?

- Encourage educators to share, contextualise, repurpose and translate content to suit one's needs
- Adaptability for any purpose
- Massification of education content
- Developer of resources (teacher-centred) to facilitator of learning (learner-centred)
- Cost effectiveness
- Integration of formal and informal learning
- Flexibility of operation

SIMILARITIES

Open learning

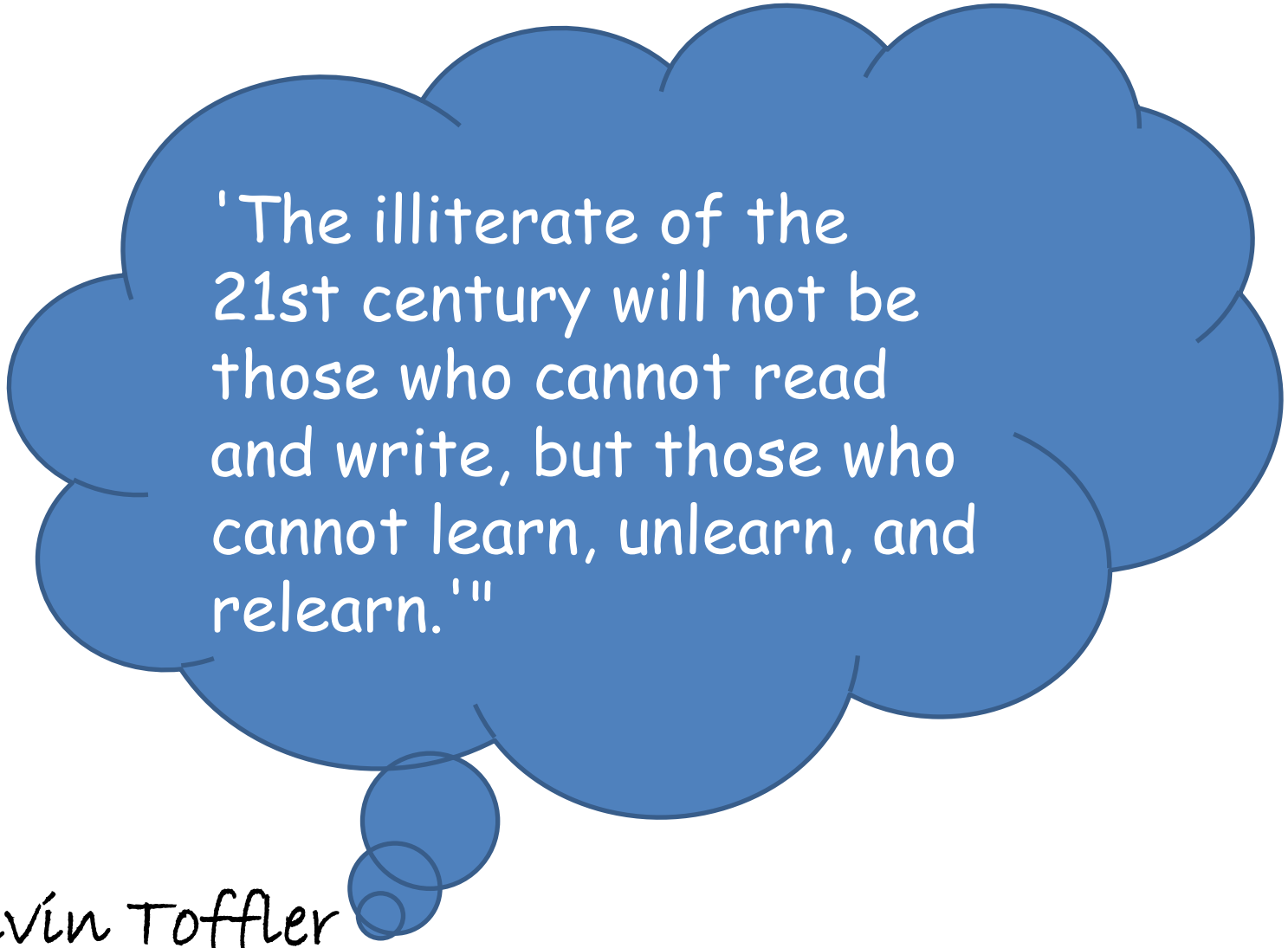
- Open – study anytime, anywhere and anyplace
- Widening participation to higher education
- Access to groups from previously disadvantaged communities
- Student-centred
- Flexibility

Open Education Resources

- Open content
- Widening participation to educational information
- Freedom to access and to copy content for personal use
- Self-study
- End-user can use or read or adapt or build upon it pr revise it

Challenges of ODL

- Quality of pedagogy
- Formal and informal knowledge
- Plethora of information
- Engagement with digital technologies
- Appropriate knowledge and skills for academics
- Innovation and fit-for purpose
- Shifting roles of teachers and students


'The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.'"
Alvin Toffler

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