

What are Open Badges?

An introduction for learning experience designers

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Hello!

- Rob Stewart, Digital Learning Consultant.
- Using Open Digital Badges since 2014.
- Training Journal's Learning & Development Professional of the Year 2019.
- Connect with me on LinkedIn at [LinkedIn.com/DigitaliTy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/digitality).
- Find more at dgty.uk/about.



Contents

- **What exactly are Open Badges?**
- Where did they come from?
- Why are they necessary?
- How are they being used?
- What can they do for me?

Open Badges are different



- Free and open (anyone can issue).
- Transferable.
- Stackable.
- Backed up by evidence.
- Give recognition.
- Verifiable.
- Easy to display.

Source: Mozilla, <http://mzl.la/1BsOP5Y>.

Inside an Open Badge



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Badge name



Description



Recipient



Criteria



Issuer



Evidence



Date issued



Standards



Tags

Open Badges are easy to use

- Created and issued through third-party online service or own software.
- Awarded to recipients who meet the criteria for a badge.
- Recipients can store their badges in an online 'backpack'.
- Recipients share their badges and these can be inspected.
- 75 million badges issued in 2022.
- More at www.openbadges.org.

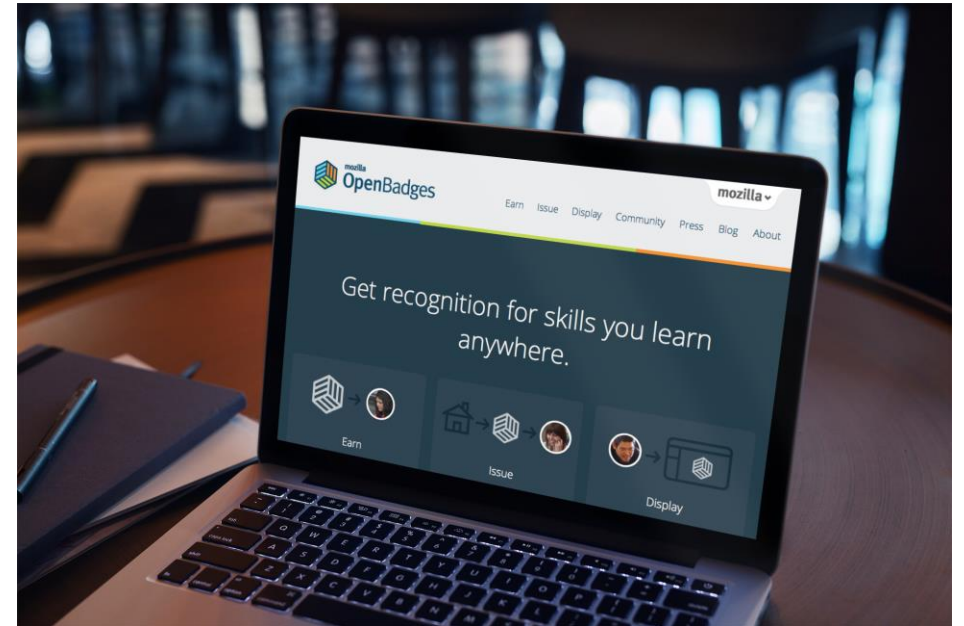


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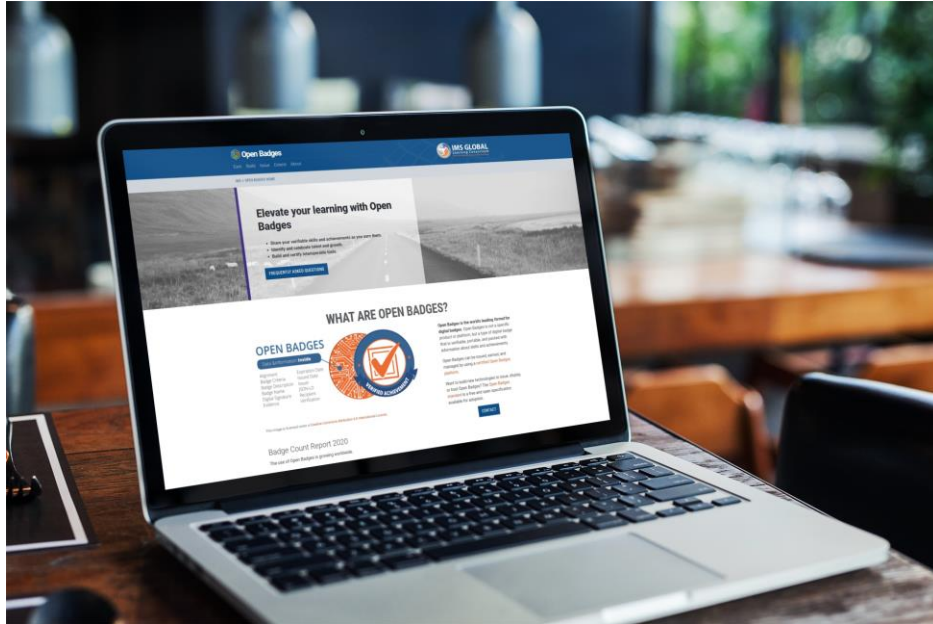
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Created by the Mozilla Foundation

- Non-profit organisation known for Firefox web browser and Thunderbird email client.
- Launched Open Badges in 2012 with support from the MacArthur Foundation.
- Common standard for the issuance, collection and display of digital badges on multiple websites.
- Strong focus on recognising informal, lifelong learning and fuelling motivation.
- Visit them at www.mozilla.org.



Maintained by 1EdTech Consortium



- Membership organisation.
- Publish learning technology interoperability standards under a royalty-free license.
- Strong institutional and supplier focus.
- Took over stewardship of Open Badges from Mozilla in late 2016.
- Open Badges 3.0 will integrate with Verifiable Credentials.
- Visit them at www.1edtech.org.

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Learning deserves recognition



- Informal continuous learning is nearly always unrecognised and hidden.
- Badges provide fast recognition.
- Evidence demonstrates the amount of effort invested by the learner.
- Endorsements/testimonials add additional recognition.
- Learners eventually build an evidence rich portfolio with badges.

Learners need to take charge

- Get learners out of the consume > quiz > certificate mindset.
- Open Badge criteria can require evidence of learning transfer.
- Effort is visible and rewarded.
- Self-directed and self-regulating learning habits can be attained.
- Open Badges can signal the start, not just the end, of a process.



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Weak use of Open Badges



- Attendance certificates. *
 - Completion certificates. *
 - Low-stakes incentives or rewards. *
 - Quiz passes.
 - Secondary awards.
- * Where there is little effort on the part of the learner and no unique evidence

Strong use of Open Badges

- Conscious recording of learning.
- Bite-size portfolio building.
- Support reflective learning.
- Support learning transfer.
- Nurture a culture of learning.
- Improve situational awareness.
- Talent identification.
- Evaluate learning effectiveness.



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Transfer learning from screen to practice



Engaging content by itself doesn't guarantee results.

- Real world activities and challenges.
- Peer interaction.
- Reflection and recording.
- Assessment and feedback.
- Endorsements/testimonials.

Expand your offering

- Identify badge potential during the learning design process.
- Design badge criteria and pathways.
- Evaluate existing badges.
- Assessment as a service.
- Setup or build badge technology.
- Offer advice/consultancy services around effective use of badges.



Summary

- Open Badges have grown in popularity since launched in 2012.
- Data rich, portable and sharable credentials are needed to recognise and encourage informal and continuous learning.
- Effort invested by learner is visible and rewarded. Encouraging more effort and performance improvement.
- Open Badges require investment but the results can be powerful.
- Open badges are an opportunity for learning experience designers.



Thank you!

Slides and resources available at dgty.uk/DLDB1

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