

I. About

A. Definition

- Digital Badges are online symbols of recognition for tasks, skills, projects, accomplishments, and other achievements.
- Open Badges are verifiable, widely sharable and displayable. Because they use an open standard, badges issued by different organizations can be collected, combined, and shared to show a cumulative set of accomplishments for a learner from numerous sources.¹
- They allow a granular approach, meaning that they can be issued for clusters of accomplishments or individual items.
- We view open badges as useful elements in supporting degree programs for a number of reasons.
 - They can be used to promote motivation in learning.
 - They are becoming more common by employers and others outside of academia.
 - They provide new and attractive ways for students to present their skills and accomplishments in a more visual, meaningful way through their portfolios and applications.
- Open Badges are Verifiable, Portable, and Stackable.
 - **Verifiable:** the task or achievement that the badge represents can be linked back to the work that was accomplished to receive the badge. They are coded with meta data to allow for verification of the badge and skill.
 - **Portable:** Badges can be moved from the environment in which it was procured and shared Via Social media, digital documents, websites, and portfolios.
 - **Stackable:** Badges acquired from various locations can be grouped or combined into a credential or “micro-credential” which will show the level of completion and various levels of knowledge in an area.

B. History

- The open badges project was created as an open collaborative effort between Mozilla, HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory), and the MacArthur Foundation (CITE). The project was launched in March of 2013, and has continued to grow exponentially in education (primary and higher), business, and industry.

II. Uses in Higher Education

¹ <https://wiki.mozilla.org/Badges>

A. Research:

See

<http://www.researchinlearningtechnology.net/index.php/rlt/article/view/23563/html>

a. Badges as Behavioral Motivator

- i. Gamification, motivation and reinforcement

b. Badges as Pedagogical Tool

- i. Scaffolding, visualize the learning path, place/emphasize value on certain learning activities over others

c. Badges as Signal or Credential

- i. Supplement/alternative to diplomas

B. Who has used them and how

- There are a number of Colleges and Universities who have implemented Badge programs to support not only their students learning, but also faculty and staff professional development. These institutions include:
 - **Purdue University:** Created a few apps to allow for professors to create and distribute badges, and for students to display them.
 - **University of California Davis:** Created a badge program to help students reach specific learning outcomes in an undergraduate major
 - **Carnegie Mellon:** Has designed a badge program specifically to encourage faculty and students to learn about STEM systems
 - **Indiana University:** Research into badges as a supplement to the traditional grading system.
 - There are numerous other universities, institutions, and organizations using badges in a variety of ways.

III. Impact on Students

A. Motivation: Badges can encourage students to

- a. Complete assignments,
- b. Learn and demonstrate a better understanding of knowledge gained, and
- c. Pursue informal learning
- d. Encourage innovation
- e. Enhance competition
- f. Build community

B. Pedagogical Tools: Badges allow

• Instructors to

- Scaffold instruction
- Assign innovative tasks
- Emphasize & reward certain learning activities over others
- Clearly sequence and cluster learning tasks by related objectives

- Ensure learners are making adequate progress by serving as a type of formative assessment (potentially low stakes, big payoff)
- Supplement the course goals
- Encourage transformative learning environments, community, experiential learning, etc.
- **Institutions to**
 - Supplement course and program goals
 - Capture and emphasize co-curricular and informal learning opportunities
 - **Potentially monetize nascent areas of education**
 - Better connect with employers and the private community
 - Gather more data about how well they are preparing students
 - Build skill sets and foundations that can be built upon later by other organizations
 - and much more!

*****They are an extremely powerful instructional design tool.*****

C. Professional Credentials: Badges can enable

- **Employers to**
 - see detailed information about the types of skills students acquire during their degree program.
 - verify the achievements through a layer of evidence, often including the actual project or artifact from the task
 - See who verified and issued the badge
- **Students to**
 - Share a more granular view of their knowledge and skills
 - choose how and where they share and display their accomplishments,
 - easily track their skills and achievements
 - See the paths that others have taken

VI. Implications & Talking Points

- A. Could badges support a degree? How?
 - a. Badges can be used to support a degree by demonstrating the specific skills a student has acquired during their time in school. Degrees only show the overall accomplishment, while a badge or badges can show the individual accomplishments of the skills and knowledge acquired.
 - b. What about here?
- B. How could badges be used in business?
 - a. Business and corporations are starting to use badges to verify training,

- support informal learning, and increase worker motivation to learn. They are primarily internal, but can be made to integrate through open badges.
- b. How might badges be used at your place of employment?
 - C. How does the openness of a badge impact its usefulness?
 - a. The openness of a badge provides it with verifiable data, and allows it to be stackable, combined with other efforts, and belong to the person, rather than an institution.

Some Links:

Open Badges Alliance

<http://openbadges.org/>

Mozilla Wiki

<https://wiki.mozilla.org/Badges>

What are Badges/define/Mozilla Backpack etc:

https://wiki.mozilla.org/Badges/Onboarding-Issuer#Why_Are_We_Doing_This.3F

Open Badges Case Studies

www.reconnectlearning.org/case-studies/

Badges MOOCs

https://www.coursesites.com/webapps/Bb-sites-course-creation-BBLEARN/courseHomepage.htmlx?course_id=_264998_1

https://www.coursesites.com/bbcswebdav/pid-4523105-dt-content-rid-14127223_1/courses/BadgeMOOC/Open%20Badges%20Ecosystem.pdf

<https://p2pu.org/en/groups/the-world-of-open-badges/content/welcome-to-open-badges-101/>

Research & Articles:

<http://www.researchinlearningtechnology.net/index.php/rlt/article/view/23563/html>

<http://research.shu.ac.uk/SEEJ/index.php/seej/article/view/66/Glover>
<http://blogs.hbr.org/2012/12/four-innovation-trends-to-watc/>

<http://ojs.stanford.edu/ojs/index.php/a2k/article/view/381>
<http://research.shu.ac.uk/SEEJ/index.php/seej/article/view/66/Glover>

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11423-013-9289-2%20/fulltext.html>
http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no2/ahn_0613.htm

<http://www.slideshare.net/IanGlover2/open-badges-in-higher-education-al-tc>

<http://www.pearsonlearningsolutions.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Open-Badges-for-Higher-Education.pdf>

-excellent article ^

http://www.evollution.com/distance_online_learning/open-badges-transform-higher-education-labor-markets/

Keeping up with article

http://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/keeping_up_with/digital_badges

Future of Badges (2012)

<http://chronicle.com/article/A-Future-Full-of-Badges/131455/>

TechTrends Implementing badges in Instructional Design course

http://www.academia.edu/5224867/Giving_Credit_Where_Credit_is_Due_Designing_Open_Badges_for_a_Technology_Integration_Course

Game Changer

<https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/pub7203cs6.pdf>

Badgekit

<http://badgekit.openbadges.org/>

Examples:

Cities of Learning

<http://citiesoflearning.org/learn/>

UC Davis:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/01/03/uc-daviss-groundbreaking-digital-badge-system-new-sustainable-agriculture-program>

Blackboard Achievements:

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Instructor/060_Course_Tools/Achievements/030_Best_Practice_Put_a_Badge_on_It