Stretching NLE Research
The Case for E-Learning

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The Open University
The Open University

• Supported distance learning
  – course materials written centrally
  – local tutor contact

• Largest UK university
  – 200,000 students worldwide, 180,000 on-line
  – 3rd largest university worldwide

• Moving towards e-learning experience
  – electronic submission of course work
  – e-delivery of course material
  – continuous assessment
Open Universities Globally

• There are Open Universities worldwide
  – Holland, Singapore, Hong Kong, India, NZ, Arab OU, Africa etc.
  – and other distance learning schools
• Increasingly electronically based
  – penetration of technology limiting factor
  – this will change
• Language engineering techniques to support student experience/management
OU e-Learning Research Theme

• Current research on:
  – identification of conceptual gaps in learners
  – relating diagrams and text in assessment
  – automatic assessment in structured specialist domains
  – personalising feedback

• International agenda:
  – tailor made e-learning
  – learning in minority languages
Resources

- OU has (potentially) many resources available
  - textual resources
    - oracle (course material, model answer)
    - student submission
    - tutor feedback
    - assessment data
  - longitudinal information
  - domain specific terminology and ontologies
The Challenge...

• Framework for collecting and annotating data
  – large and text based
  – integration of resources
    • ontology
    • oracle
    • assessment

• NLE Solutions that are portable across language type (eg Arabic?)