

Workshop
KMi (Podium and MediaLab)
Open University
Berril Building, 4th floor, North Wing
Walton Hall, MK76AA, Milton Keynes, UK
Wednesday 9 June 2010

Cohere Demo and Hands on Notes

Table of Content

1	Cohere homepage description	2
2	Cohere concepts and main element description.....	3
2.1	Page Context.....	3
2.2	Four Navigation Tabs	3
2.3	Main Cohere elements: Idea, Websites, and Connections.....	4
3	Content Creation: How to Ideas, Connections and Web Annotations	5
3.1	Creating Content from the sidebar	5
3.1.1	Creating Websites' Clips.....	5
3.1.2	Creating Ideas	5
3.1.3	Bookmark an idea	7
3.1.4	Creating Connections	7
3.2	Creating Content from the Cohere Site.....	9
3.2.1	Creating Websites' Clips.....	9
3.2.2	Creating Ideas	11
3.2.3	Bookmark an idea	12
3.2.4	Creating Connections	12
4	Data Search and Navigation	14
4.1	Tag Cloud.....	14
4.2	Keyword search	15
5	Data Visualization	15
5.1	Visualizations for Ideas	15
5.2	Visualizations for Connections	16
6	Hands on Cohere exercise notes.....	18
6.1	First part.....	18
6.2	Second part.....	19
6.3	Third part.....	21

1 Cohere homepage description

If you go to <http://cohere.open.ac.uk/> and you are **not logged in** to Cohere you'll be pointed to the Cohere Homepage (see the image below)

The screenshot shows the Cohere website homepage. At the top left is the Cohere logo with the tagline '>>> make the connection'. To the right is a search bar with 'Search Examples...' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar are navigation tabs: Home, Twitter, Tag Cloud, Screencasts, Ideas, Connections, and People & Groups. The main content area is divided into several sections: a central 'Example Network View' showing a network of ideas and their connections; a 'Most Connected Idea' section featuring '#COP15'; a 'Top Connection Builders' section listing users like Simon Buckingham Shum and Anna De Liddo; and a 'Most Recent Connection' section showing a connection between 'titolo' and 'The human impact on the atmosphere: the coming of the industrial age'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a 'Sign In to:' section containing links for 'Add Idea', 'Add Connection', 'Import Data', and 'Edit Profile'. Below this is a 'Top 20 Tags:' section listing various tags like 'CBM awareness', 'Collective Intelligence', 'Design challenge', etc. On the right side, there is a 'Cohere Project News' section with updates on blog posts and new features.

An KMI Tool from the OLnet Project | Contact

Figure 1: The Cohere Website Home page

In left side bar you see

- the tag cloud (20 most used tags) and
- the Firefox plugin download link

In the central part you can see

- Most connected idea
- Top connected builders (people who has created most connections)
- Most recent connection
- Twitter stream of Cohereweb

2 Cohere concepts and main element description



Figure 2: Anna's Data

If you are logged in (to do so just go to the top right menu and click sign in) You will be pointed to *your data* (See image above with my data as an example).

2.1 Page Context

At the top center of the page you'll see your name in bold green. This sets the context of the data shown in the tabbed pages below. In the example above the context is a person, (Anna De Liddo), and below it shows all that person's data. If you are that person (as when viewing your data) you will see all the data. If you are viewing someone else's data you will see only their public data.

The context of a page in cohere can be a *person*, a *group*, an *idea*, a *website* or a *search result*. The data then shown in the tabbed areas below relates to that context.

2.2 Four Navigation Tabs

Below the page context you will have 4 different tabs named: Ideas, Websites, Connections, People and Group. Sweeping from one tab to another you can view the list of ideas, you have created, the list of websites you have clipped or annotated, the connections you have created and the groups you are in.

Page context and the four navigation tabs are key element to orientate yourself into Cohere.

As you select items on various tabs, like clicking on an idea in the list, the page context will change to be that Idea or whatever item you have selected and all its related data will then be loaded into the tabbed sections. The title above the tabs will always tell you the current context of the data you are viewing. You can always return easily to your own data at any time by clicking 'My Data' on the left menu pane.

2.3 Main Cohere elements: Idea, Websites, and Connections

These tabs mainly mirror the main Cohere elements, that are the data the users can mark up, create and browse with Cohere, namely:

- **Websites:** you can annotate either an entire website or selections of text (clips) from a website.
- **Ideas:** you can write down *personal notes, thoughts, questions* or anything else you like. Ideas can also be *comments* or annotations on websites or parts of website (clips).
- **Connection:** you can connect ideas together with a semantic association.

3 Content Creation: How to Ideas, Connections and Web Annotations

There are two main environments from which users can create content:

- From the Browser (Cohere Firefox Sidebar)
- From the Cohere main Site

3.1 Creating Content from the sidebar

Imaging you are a tourist who loves Turkey and wants to visit Istanbul this summer. You open your browser and start looking for websites for Istanbul accommodation.

3.1.1 *Creating Websites' Clips*

You can mark websites by creating clips and adding them to your websites list. To do so just select the text you want to clip and then click on the “clips” button in the top menu. The clip will appear in the sidebar in the clips tab.

3.1.2 *Creating Ideas*

You can create ideas from the sidebar by annotating the page you are browsing. To do so just click the plus button on the top menu.

If you want to make an annotation on a specific part of text on the page just proceed as for creating a clip, underline the text, and then click on the Plus button on the top menu. This will open up the idea dialogue window (see figure 3 below).

From this window you can:

- *Choose an icon*
- *Give a title (idea summary)*
- *Add Description*
- *Make private or public*
- *Tag*
- *Share with Groups*
- *Add Location*
- *Add Time*
- *Add websites*



Idea type: [add new](#)

Summary:

Description:

Public:

Add Tags: (comma separated)

Groups: ▲ Extras: ▲ Websites: ▲

Groups:

- COP15 Social media
- COP15 OER
- p2pu project
- Mark Lynas's Book: Six Degrees: Our Future in a Hotter Planet
- OLnet Pilot Virtual Workshop
- OLnet Brainstorming
- LARI
- Known-unknown in the climate change field
- Getting nuclear: the debate
- Climate Change - What is the situation?
- COP15 COHERE Team
- Jetpack
- test
- OLnet-Year1
- Social Learning
- OER meeting, Monterey 2009
- The climate sceptics arguments
- OLnet Team - Discussion

Extras:

Date/time: to [i](#)

Location: [i](#)

Websites:

URL: [remove](#)

Title: [globe](#)

Clip:

Set this url as the icon for this idea

[add url](#)

Figure 3: Idea Dialog

Once you have created the idea from your browser this will appear in the sidebar.

Several functions can be accessed from the sidebar (see figure 4 below), such as:

- *Show/hide description*
- *Show/hide websites*
- *Edit*
- *Delete*
- *Add Clips*
- *Bookmark*
- *Connect*
- *Show neighbor network*
- *Tweet*

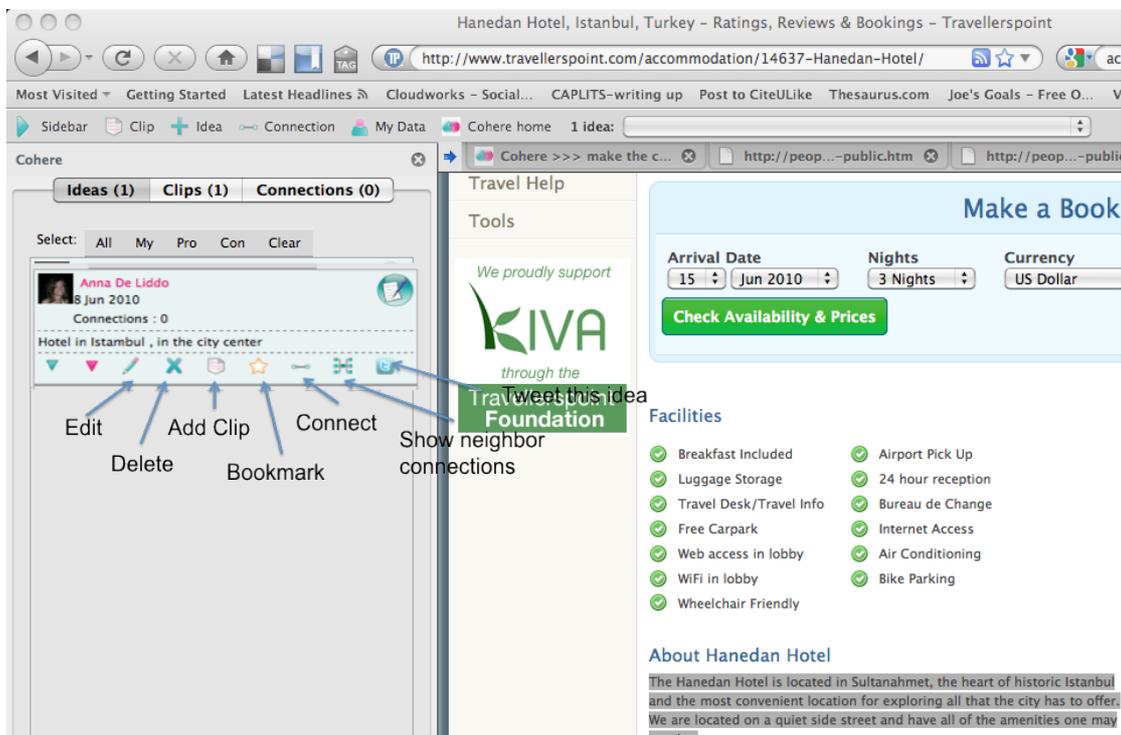


Figure 4: Idea toolbar explained on Cohere Sidebar

3.1.3 *Bookmark an idea*

To bookmark an idea click the star icon that is underneath the idea label in the sidebar. This action will turn the star yellow and it will add that idea to the list of your bookmarked ideas.

3.1.4 *Creating Connections*

If you want to create a connection between two ideas you go to the ideas tab, select the idea you want to connect from and click on the connect button

This will open the connection dialogue window (figure 5 below).

 **Idea type:** Note [add new](#)

Idea:

Switch Link: [add new](#)

 **Idea type:** Idea [add new](#)

Idea:

URL:

URL title:

Public:

Add Tags: (comma separated)

Groups: ▲

Groups:

- COP15 Social media
- COP15 OER
- p2pu project
- Mark Lynas's Book: Six Degrees: Our Future in a Hotter Planet
- OLnet Pilot Virtual Workshop
- OLnet Brainstorming
- LARI
- Known-unknown in the climate change field
- Getting nuclear: the debate
- Climate Change - What is the situation?
- COP15 COHERE Team
- Jetpack
- test
- OLnet-Year1
- Social Learning
- OER meeting, Monterey 2009
- The climate sceptics arguments
- OLnet Team - Discussion

Figure 5: The Connection dialog window

The connection box consists of three elements: idea1 (the idea you want to connect from), idea2 (the idea you want to connect to), a link or semantic connection.

- 1) The idea1 will be filled with the one you have selected
- 2) At this point you need to pick the idea you want to connect to. You can either create a new idea (that will be associated with the url you are on), or you can pick from already existing ideas.
To pick from already existing ideas, you can either type the label of the idea you want to connect to (the auto-complete function will allow you to pick it from a list of your idea that mach the label you typed) or you can pick it from your bookmarks list.
To open the bookmarks list just click on the “Show bookmarks list” button (see image above)



“Show bookmarks list” button

- Remember, if you want to find the relevant idea you want to connect to in that list you have to bookmark it before you start making the connection.
- 3) Finally choose the semantic connection from the “select link type” list, or create your own by clicking on “add new”. The direction of the connection can be switched by clicking on “switch” link (see figure 5 above).

3.2 Creating Content from the Cohere Site

Creating websites’ clips, ideas and connections from the main Cohere site follows similar rules to the ones previously described.

In every *page context* of Cohere, there is a + icon that enables to create new content. So depending on which tab you are in, this icon will allow you to add a new website, a new idea or a new connection.

3.2.1 Creating Websites’ Clips

You create websites list or clips by clicking on the + icon from the websites tab. (see figure 6 below).

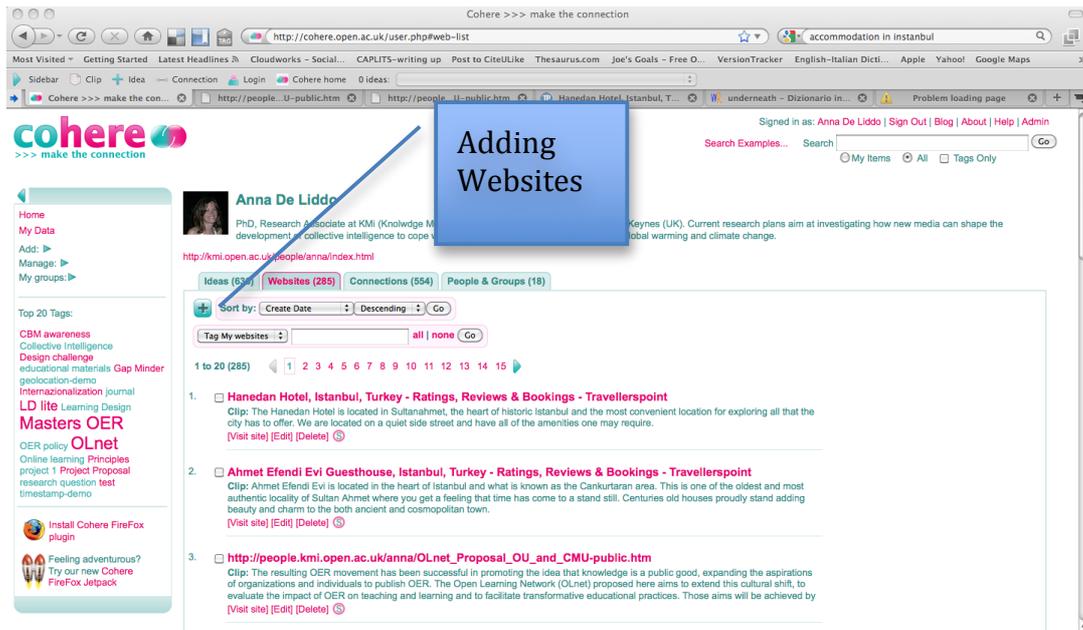
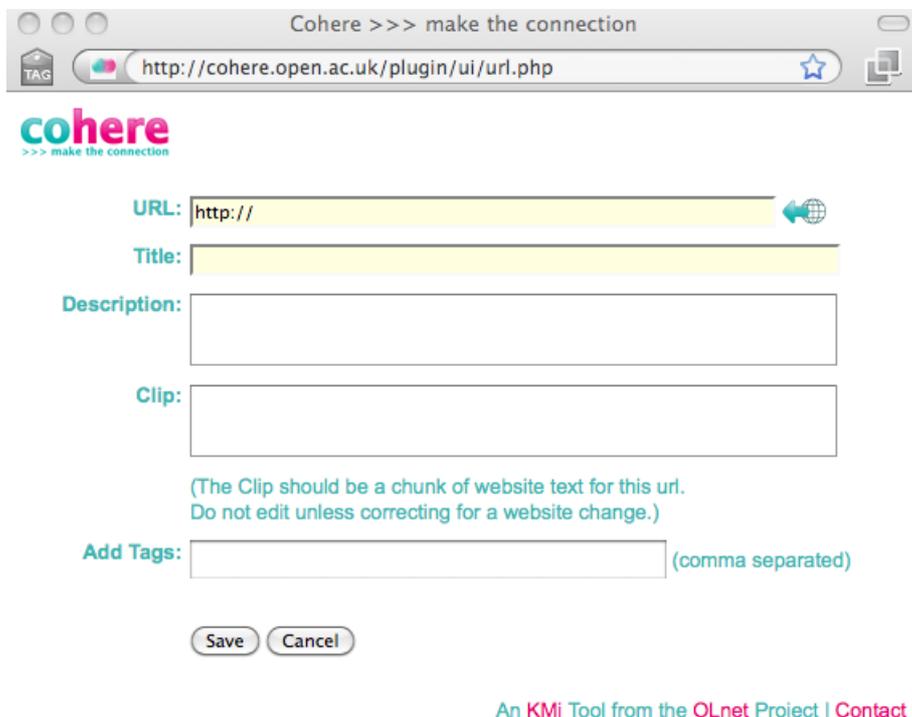


Figure 6: Creating a new website entry

By clicking on the +button from the Websites tab you will open the create Websites dialogue box (figure 7 below). Creating Websites from the main Cohere site is a bit more difficult since users need to copy and paste manually the url and the text of the clip they want to create. Moreover users can add tags to the websites and clips they are creating.



An KMi Tool from the OLnet Project | Contact

Figure 7: The Website dialog window

3.2.2 Creating Ideas

You can create ideas from the Cohere main site by clicking on the + button from the Ideas tab (figure 8 below).

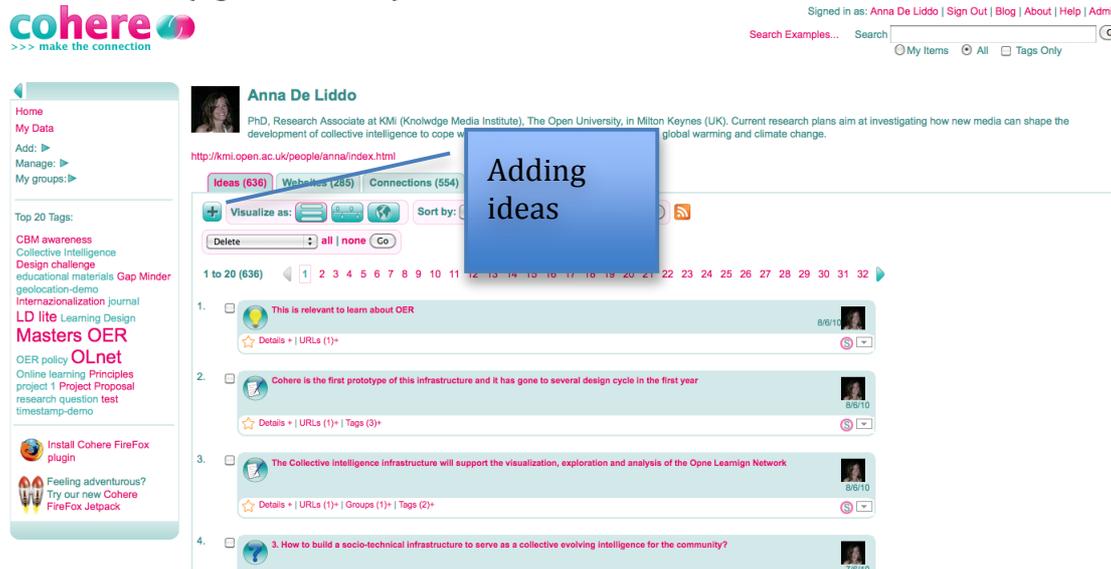


Figure 8: Creating a new Idea

This will open the create idea dialogue box already described, from which all the main idea's metadata can be specified, such as:

- *Choose an icon*
- *Give a title (idea summary)*
- *Add Description*
- *Make private or public*
- *Tag*
- *Share with Groups*
- *Add Location*
- *Add Time*
- *Add websites*

Once you have created the idea this will appear in your data under the Ideas tab. Several functions can be accessed by opening the right menu under each idea box (see figure 9 below), such as:

- *Connect*
- *Edit*
- *Delete*
- *Tweet*
- *Get snippet*
- *Get URL*

The screenshot shows the user profile for Anna De Liddo. On the left is a navigation sidebar with links like Home, My Data, Add, Manage, and My groups. Below this are 'Top 20 Tags' including 'CBM awareness', 'Collective Intelligence', 'Design challenge', 'Gap Minder', 'geolocation-demo', 'hotels', 'istanbul', 'Internazionalization', 'journal', 'LD lite', 'Learning Design', 'Masters OER', 'OER policy', 'OLnet', 'Online learning', 'Principles', 'project 1', 'Project Proposal', 'research question', and 'timestamp-demo'. At the bottom of the sidebar are links for 'Install Cohere FireFox plugin' and 'Feeling adventurous?'. The main content area shows the user's name and bio: 'Anna De Liddo, PhD, Research Associate at KMi (Knowledge Media Institute), The Open University, in Milton Keynes (UK). Current research plans aim at investigating development of collective intelligence to cope with complex environmental matters such as global warming and climate change.' Below the bio is a URL: 'http://kmi.open.ac.uk/people/anna/index.html'. There are four tabs: 'Ideas (639)', 'Websites (285)', 'Connections (554)', and 'People & Groups (18)'. The 'Ideas' tab is active. At the top of the ideas list are controls for 'Visualize as:' (with icons for list, map, and network), 'Sort by:' (set to 'Create Date', 'Descending'), and a 'Go' button. Below these is a 'Delete' dropdown menu and a 'Go' button. A pagination bar shows '1 to 20 (639)' with a list of numbers 1 through 32. The list contains three items:

- Hotel in Istanbul , in the city center (8/6/10) with a star icon and a context menu open showing options: Connect, Edit, Delete, Tweet, Get Snippet, and Get URL.
- Cheep hotel in instanbul (8/6/10) with a star icon.
- Good accomdation plus restaurant istambul (8/6/10) with a star icon.

Figure 9: Idea List showing idea item menu

3.2.3 Bookmark an idea

To bookmark an idea click the star icon that is underneath the idea label in the sidebar. This action will turn the star yellow and it will add that idea to the list of your bookmarked ideas.

3.2.4 Creating Connections

If you want to create a connection between two ideas you go to the Connections tab, and you can:

- 1) Click on the + button on the left, underneath the tabs (see figure 10 below).

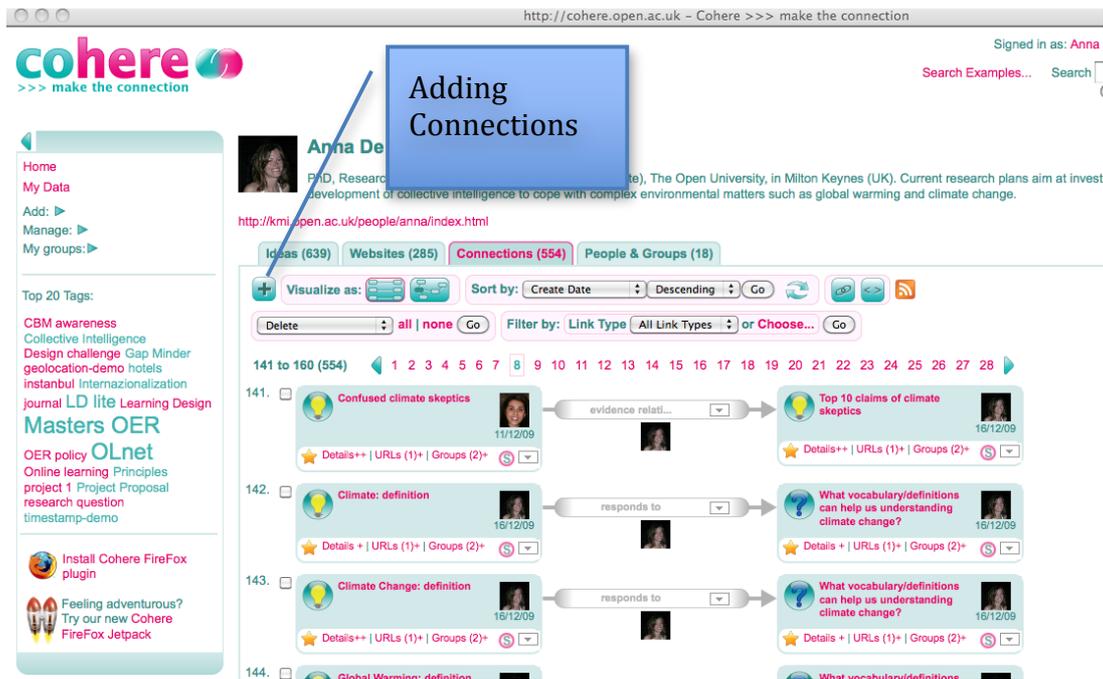


Figure 10: Adding a new Connection

This will open the usual connections dialogue box, in which neither of the two ideas have been pre-filled in.

Users will therefore need to either create two new ideas or pick from existing ones.

To pick from already existing ideas, you can either type the label of the idea you want to connect to (the auto-complete function will allow you to pick it from a list of your ideas that match the label you typed) or you can pick it from your bookmarks list. To open the bookmarks list just click on the “Show bookmarks list” button (see figure 5 above)



“Show bookmarks list” button

Remember, if you want to find the relevant idea you want to connect to in that list you have to bookmark it before you start making the connection.

Finally users will need to choose a semantic connection from the “select link type” list, or create their own connection type by clicking on “add new”. The direction of the connection can be switched by clicking on “switch” link (see image above).

2) Alternatively users can select the idea they want to connect from and then select “connect” from the right menu under each idea box (see figure 9 above). This will open the connection dialogue window, this time the idea1 will be pre-filled with the selected idea you want to connect from. User then need to proceed exactly as previously described to fill the idea2 and pick the connection type and create the connection.

4.2 Keyword search

Alternatively contents can be searched by typing in the search box, which is placed at the top right of the Cohere webpage. Say you have typed “climate change”, you can then tick if you want to search on your items, all items or tags only. When you click on the search button this will set the *Page Context* as being the search result for “climate change”. This means that all ideas, websites, connections and people who have any content which include the words “climate change” will be listed in the different tabs (See figure 12 below).

The screenshot shows the Cohere website interface. At the top left is the Cohere logo with the tagline ">>> make the connection". At the top right, it says "Signed in as: Anna De Liddo | Sign Out | Blog | About | Help | Admin". Below this is a search bar containing "climate change" and a "Go" button. There are also radio buttons for "My Items", "All", and "Tags Only".

The main content area is titled "Search results for 'climate change'". It has four tabs: "Ideas (149)", "Websites (109)", "Connections (148)", and "People & Groups (7)". Below the tabs are options for "Visualize as:" (list, grid, map), "Sort by:" (Create Date, Descending), and a "Go" button. There is also a "Delete" dropdown set to "all" and a "Go" button.

The results are displayed in a list view, showing 1 to 20 of 149 items. The first four items are:

1. NC: Proud of British values, but past govnts have let us down. Trops without right kit: invasion of Iraq [...] We should lead towards a nuclear free world, and on climate change. UK as a force for good in the world. 27/4/10
2. NC: I worked for the UK European leader. I learnt a lot. It can be bureaucratic, but we can't deal with smoo major issues on our own, eg. international crime, climate change. We're stronger together. 27/4/10
3. : What climate change measures are you taking? 27/4/10
4. Communicating climate change. 25/3/10

Figure 12: Example search results for 'climate change'

5 Data Visualization

Cohere offers several type of visualizations for ideas, connections and people.

5.1 Visualizations for Ideas

Ideas can be visualized as

- List view (see i.e. fig 9 and fig. 12)
- Time Line view (Figure 13 here below)



Group: OLnet Team - Discussion

In this group OLnet (<http://olnet.org/>) team member discuss general ideas, issues, questions, arguments, comments, evidences, etc that are arising along the OLnet project. In particular will be used from Cohere workshop participants to share their thought and activities during the workshop.

<http://olnet.org/>



Figure 13: Time line view

- Google map view (Figure 14 here below)



Signed in as: [Anna De Liddo](#) | [Sign Out](#) | [Blog](#) | [About](#) | [Help](#) | [Admin](#)

Search Examples... Search My Items All Tags Only

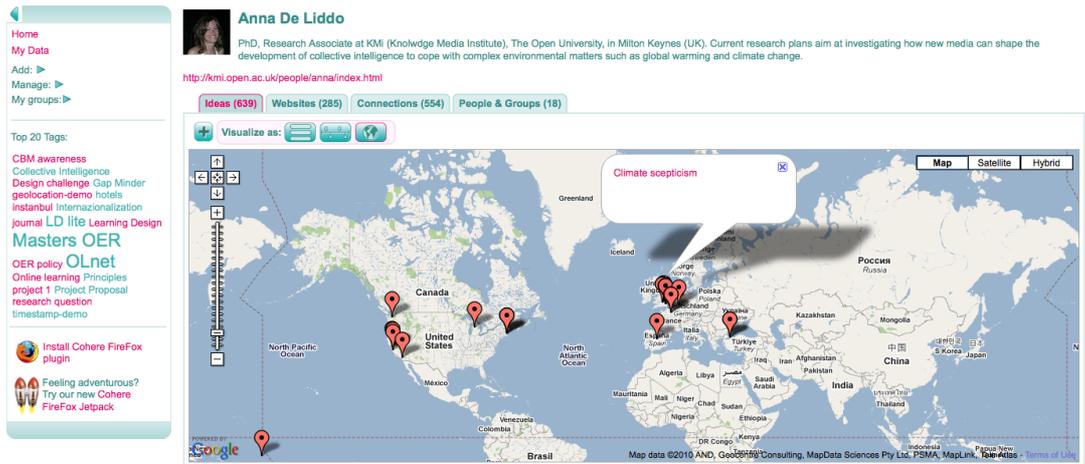


Figure 14: Google map view

5.2 Visualizations for Connections

Connection can be visualized as

- List (see Figure 10)
- Network view (Figure 15 here below)

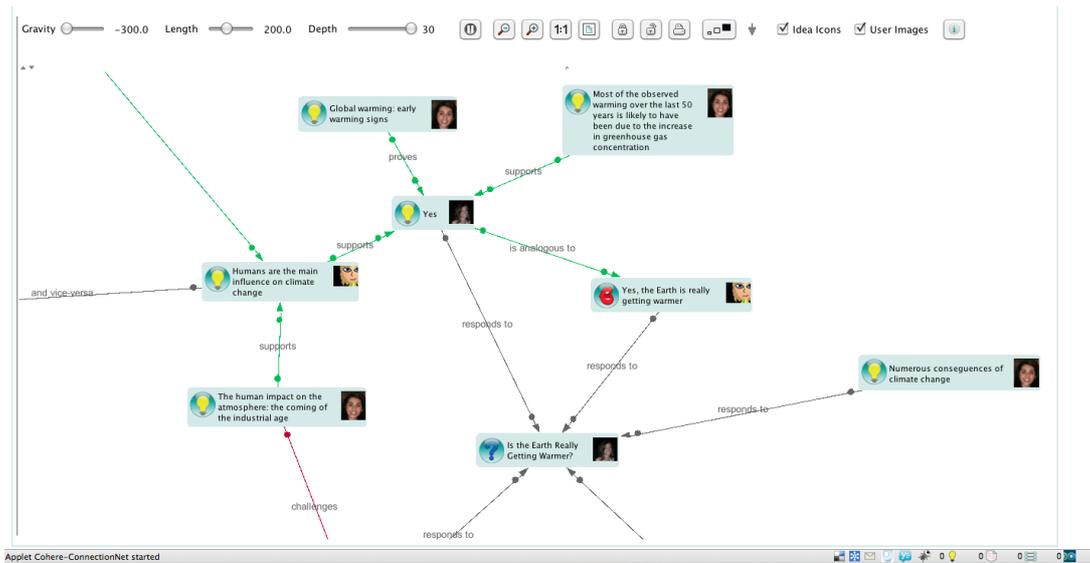


Figure 15: Connection Network View

In the network view each idea or annotation is represented as a node and each semantic connection as a directed graph with semantic link label. Moreover, each node has an icon, an author (represented by a picture of the user who created that idea) and a label.

6 Hands on Cohere exercise notes

During this phase participants will start using the tool. They will be asked to perform the following task

6.1 First part

1) Open your Firefox browser and go to <http://cohere.open.ac.uk/> and sign in by clicking on the sign in button at the top right of the homepage. Fill your name and password and sign in to Cohere.

2) Then create your first idea which represents your research question. To do so, please follow instruction at Page 111 Section 3.2.2 Creating Ideas.

3) Then open another tab in your browser and go to the OLnet proposal site at http://people.kmi.open.ac.uk/anna/OLnet_Proposal_OU_and_CMU-public.htm

Open the Cohere sidebar by clicking on the blue right arrow at the top left of the Cohere toolbar (see figure 16 below).

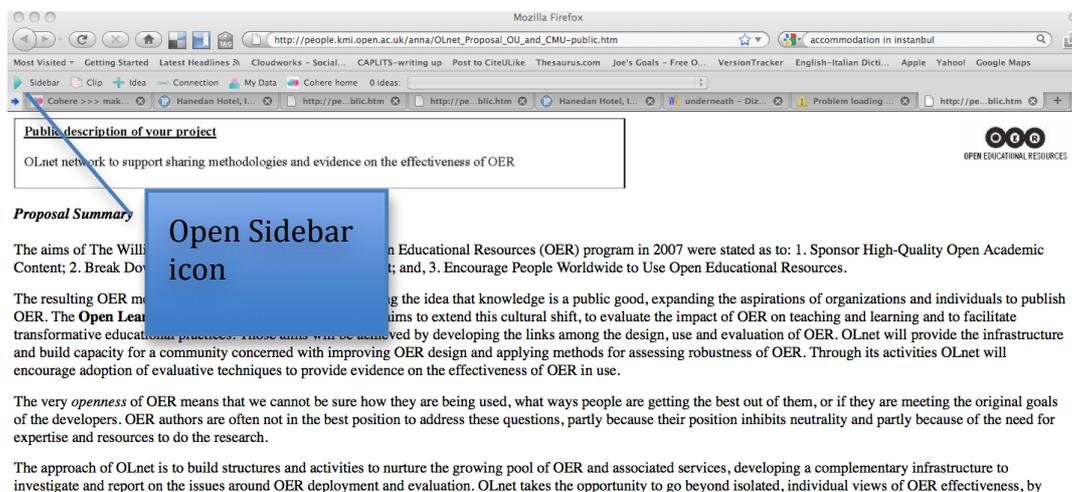


Figure 16: Opening the Cohere Sidebar

4) Then read through the proposal and underline and annotate the parts that you consider relevant to your research question by creating annotations/ideas.

To create annotations/ ideas please follow the indications at Page 5 Section 3.1.2 Creating Ideas.

Please tag your annotation with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share your annotation with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

Create at least four specific types of annotations which summarize

- the objective of your investigation;
- the method you are following (if any)
- the data you are going to collect;
- the outcomes you expect

Do so by picking different idea icons from the list for each annotation type: objective, method, data and expected outcome icons. These icons have been preset for you so you need just to pick them from the list in the idea dialogue box (Figure 3).

5) Connect the research question you have just created with the four annotations with meaningful semantic connections.

Please use the following connection schema:

- To connect Research Question to Objective use:

Objective > MOTIVATES > Research Question

- To connect Research Question to Method use:

Research Question > USES > Method

- To connect Research Question to Data use:

Data > COLLECTED TO INVESTGATE > Research Question

- To connect Research Question to Expected outcomes use:

Research Question > ENVISAGES/HYPOTHESISES > Expected Outcomes

To create connections please follow the instructions at Page 7, Section 3.1.4 Creating Connections.

6.2 Second part

- 1) Go to the Olnet site at <http://olnet.org/> and annotate the blog posts you have created with:
- 2)
 - the activities you have carried out and/or you intend to carry out (If you are an OLnet fellow please create the research activities you want to carry on during your fellowship);
Please create more then one activity if necessary.
Please create one idea for each activity by annotating the OLnet blog post in which you describe the activity. To do so follow the

instructions that explain how to create ideas from the sidebar at page: Page 5 Section 3.1.2 Creating Ideas.

If you haven't described your activities in any blog post yet, please create an idea describing them by clicking on the + button in the top left of the Cohere Toolbar.

Please tag your idea with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share your idea with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

- the findings of your first year research activity (If you are an OLnet fellow please create the research activities you want to carry on during your fellowship);

Please create one idea for each finding by annotating the OLnet blog post in which you describe the findings. To do so follow the instructions that explain how to create ideas from the sidebar at page: Page 5 Section 3.1.2 Creating Ideas.

If you haven't described your finding in any blog post yet, please create an idea describing them by clicking on the + button in the top left of the Cohere Toolbar.

Please tag your idea with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share your idea with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

- 3) Connect activity and finding with the following semantic connection:

Activity > PRODUCED > finding

To create connections please follow the instructions at page 7 Section 3.1.4 Creating Connections.

Please tag your connection with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share the connection with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

- 4) Connect the Activities with the Research question you have created with the following semantic connection:

Research Questions > MOTIVATES > Activities

To create connections please follow the instructions at page 7 Section 3.1.4 Creating Connections.

Please tag your connection with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share the connection with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

- 5) Connect the findings with the research question you have created with the following semantic connection:

Research question > RESULTS IN > Finding

To create connections please follow the instructions at page 7 Section 3.1.4 Creating Connections.

Please tag your connection with at least one specific tag to identify your sub-project title. Also please don't forget to share the connection with the Cohere workshop group by ticking the group "OLnet Team – Discussion".

6.3 Third part

1) Go to

<http://cohere.open.ac.uk/node.php?nodeid=137108251470341729001275918940&start=0&max=20&orderby=date&sort=DESC&direction=right&filtergroup=&filterlist=&netnodeid=&netq=&netscope=&foclnode=137108251470341729001275918940#conn-neighbour>

This view shows the main research questions and three research sub-questions for OLnet as detailed in the proposal.

Please connect the research question you have created to one of these questions with the following semantic connection:

Main OLent Research question > IS REFINED INTO > The research question you have created.

2) Go back to the [Cohere Website](#) and click on My groups: OLnet Team – Workshop.

This will bring you to the *OLnet Team – Workshop* context with the four tabs showing the people in the group and all the ideas, websites' clips and connections created by the group.

Go to the Connections tab and click on the Visualize as: Network button



Network button

This will launch the Cohere Applet.

Click the "Resize Applet" button one or twice to make the graph bigger



Resize Applet button

From this view you can explore the network and check ideas and connections created by others.

Please create at least three connections between your ideas and ideas created by someone else.

To do so click on the node you want to connect to and use the right click menu to bookmark it (see figure 17 below)

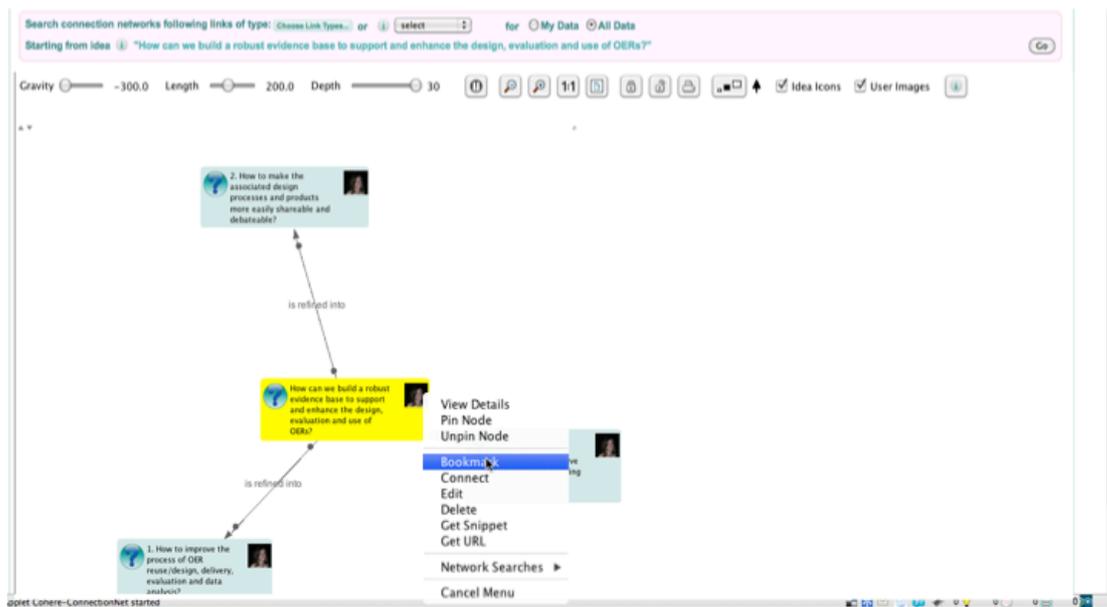


Figure 17: Creating a connection in the Network View

Then click on the node you want to connect from and use the right click menu “connect” (see figure 18 below)

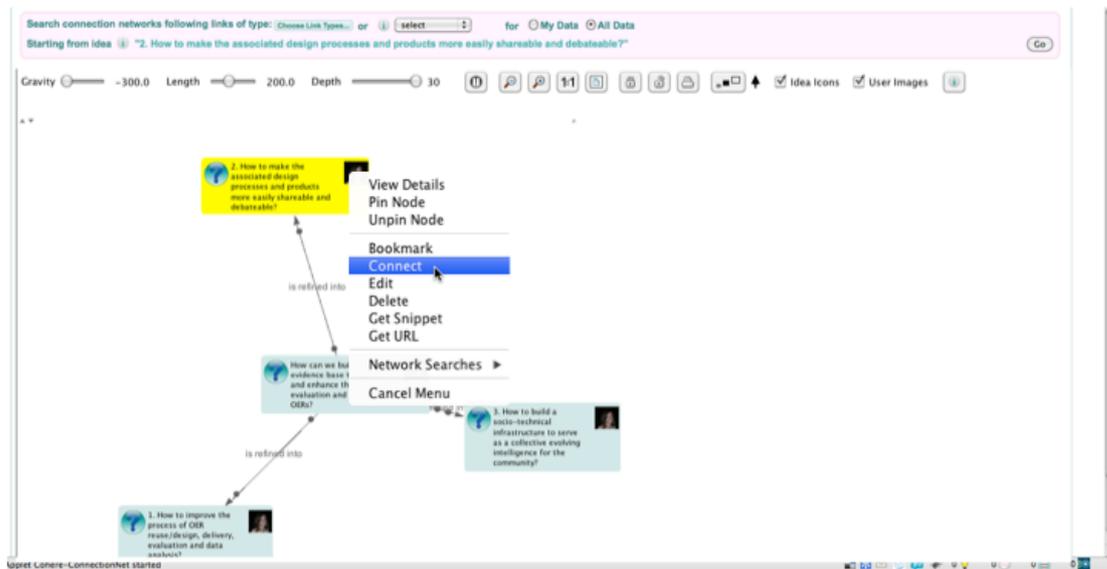


Figure 18: Opening the Cohere Sidebar

This will open the connection dialogue box. To create the connection between the two ideas please follow the instructions at page 7 Section 3.1.4 Creating Connections.

When you click create connection the applet will refresh and the new connection you have created will be added to the network.