

# LIBRARY GUIDE ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

University of San Carlos - The Library System



## WHAT IS OER?

"The term "Open Educational Resource(s)" (OER) refers to educational resources (lesson plans, quizzes, syllabi, instructional modules, simulations, etc.) that are freely available for use, reuse, adaptation, and sharing."

## WHY OER?

OER is important because it provides affordable material to students, allows faculty to enhance their work, and provides faculty with content for classes. This short video illustrates the benefits of OER.

## WHAT ARE THE USES OF OER?

1. As additional resources to an existing program or curriculum. For instance, instructors sometimes use an online open lesson plan to include an enrichment activity for learners or may provide extra practice material for the learner, struggling with the course or a particular concept.

Laboratory classes with limited space the instructor may incorporate online open videos to create a clear and comprehensive demonstration of a complex experiment.

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2. Curate a huge collection of open resources into a digital library, making it easier for the instructor to search specific materials or lesson plans to be used in their online classes.

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3. The shift from expensive and conventional textbooks, incorporating digital curriculum and creating an open resource.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING OER?

1. An educational platform open to everyone
2. Affordable learning, ideally free of cost
3. Before even signing up, learners can try out the course
4. Study times get flexible and not restricted to semester calendars or weekly timetables
5. Learners can learn and work in accordance with their pace
6. Accessible from anywhere and have no limited access to college or school
7. Provide access to a variety of study materials
8. A lot of intellectual capital is offered to be reused.

## WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF OER?

### OPENCOURSEWARE

"OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a free and open digital publication of high quality college and university-level educational materials. These materials are organized as courses, and often include course planning materials and evaluation tools as well as thematic content" (Open Education Consortium, 2017, para. 1).

### OPEN TEXTBOOKS

"Open textbooks are typically authored by faculty and published on the web with the support of universities or new commercial companies. This new business model enables free online access to textbooks" (California State University, 2012, para. 1).

### LEARNING MODULES

A learning module is "a tool that provides course materials in a logical, sequential, order, guiding students through the content and assessments in the order specified by the instructor. Instructors can insert formatted text, files, web links, discussion topics, assignments, tests and quizzes, and soon, assessments. Content can be structured in such a way as to require students to complete content before they are allowed to proceed to the next content. It is also possible for instructors to set up a place for students to add content to the learning module" (University of Florida e-Learning, 2013, para. 1).

## STREAMING VIDEO

"Streaming video is content sent in compressed form over the Internet and displayed by the viewer in real-time. With streaming video or streaming media, a Web user does not have to wait to download a file to play it. Instead, the media is sent in a continuous stream of data and is played as it arrives. The user needs a player, which is a special program that uncompresses and sends video data to the display and audio data to speakers. A player can be either an integral part of a browser or downloaded from the software maker's Web site" (TechTarget, 2017, para. 1).

## OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Open access journals provide "free, immediate, online availability of research articles combined with the right to use these articles fully in the digital environment. Open access is the needed modern update for the communication of research that fully utilizes the Internet for what it was originally built to do—accelerate research" (SPARC, 2017, para. 5).

## ONLINE TUTORIALS

An **online tutorial** is a self-study activity designed to teach a specific learning outcome. They are usually delivered via a course management system but can also be made available via the Internet or on a DVD. There are two main types of online tutorials:

- **Recorded tutorials** are video or screencast recordings, typically of a subject expert presenting information and ideas or giving a demonstration.
- **Interactive tutorials** are a structured collection of navigable web pages. Individual pages can contain any combination of text, images, audio, video, self-test questions, and other interactive activities. Interactive tutorials can also contain screencasts.

Both types of online tutorials can be provided as supplementary learning materials or as an integral part of core activity. Because of the benefits they offer, online tutorials are becoming commonplace within both programs of learning and on number of support service web sites (University of Bristol Educational Support Unit, 2017, para. 1-4).

## DIGITAL LEARNING OBJECTS

"Digital learning objects are small, modular, discrete units of learning designed for electronic delivery and use. To facilitate reuse with a minimum of effort, a learning object is "packaged" to include a lesson, an activity, and an assessment. The most reusable learning objects will have a learning outcome that is concrete and fundamental to a broad range of courses" (CSU Northridge Oviatt Library, 2017, p. 1).

### HERE ARE SOME WELL-KNOWN EXAMPLES OF OER TO EXPLORE:

#### 1. Khan Academy

It offers online practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. It covers math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more.

#### 2. OpenStax CNX

A dynamic non-profit digital ecosystem serving millions of users per month in the delivery of educational content to improve learning outcomes.

#### 3. Open Textbook Library

A curated and peer-reviewed collection of open textbooks that have been adopted at multiple institutions of higher education.

#### 4. Curriki

It's an online community of educators, learners and committed education experts work together to build and share quality K-12 materials that benefit teachers, parents, and students globally.

#### 5. Wikipedia

The largest free encyclopedia in the world built collaboratively using the wiki software.

#### 6. Wikimedia

Commons An online repository of free-use images, sound, and other media files.

#### 7. Saylor.org

Creating and curating open educational resources (OER), piloting innovative credentials, and deploying open source technology, all toward supporting learning opportunities for all who seek them.

## 8. MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW)

OCW makes the materials used in the teaching of MIT's subjects freely available on the Web.

## 9. Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU)

Learning for everyone, by everyone, about almost anything.

## 10. CK-12

Education non-profit.  
Improving K-12 learning globally.

## 11. Open Course

Library A collection of high quality, free-to-use courses that you can download and use for teaching. All content is stored in Google docs making it easy to access, browse, and download.

## 12. Siyavula

An educational technology company with a mission to create and enable engaging, integrated, high-quality learning experiences in Mathematics and Science.

## 13. OER Commons

A public digital library of open educational resources. Explore, create, and collaborate with educators around the world to improve curriculum.

## 14. Canvas

A learning platform that makes teaching and learning (and implementation and adoption and customer support and student success and bragging to your non-Canvas-using peers) easier.