

# Open Educational Resources

## 1 What is it?

Open Educational Resources (OER) is a term used to describe a wide array of textbooks and course material created with the primary goal of being shared widely for educational purpose. OER is of the same quality as traditional textbooks, and may be peer-reviewed. OER can also include ancillary materials such as presentation slides, simulations, and assessments. Open Educational Materials are free for the end users. (This is important, as the rising cost of textbooks has a negative correlation with student success and retention rates).

## 2 Why is it important?

With a continually expanding selection of high-quality materials, adopting OER in your course can provide several benefits. For instance:

- Customize course materials to best meet your instructional needs.
- Improve student satisfaction with materials designed to help students succeed in your course
- Reduce or eliminate cost of course materials by replacing traditional course text with OER.

OER allows us to (creatively) rethink the materials that we use for our course rather than rethinking our course around available textbooks.

## 3 How to do it?

In many ways, we can look at utilizing OER within a course as falling along a spectrum. Incorporating OER can fall under any of the following degrees:

- Partial adoption of existing materials.
- Full adoption of existing materials.
- Creation of new materials.

While we may need to create new material to fill in certain gaps, it is also likely that existing OERs can be utilized to meet the needs of our course.

## Tips and Tricks

- **Review the Copyright** – OER material is often free to use for educational purposes, typically using the [Creative Commons licenses](#).
- **Consider Remixing** – When allowed by the copyright license, adjusting and adapting current OER (known as remixing) can be the most efficient way to meet course needs.
- **Regularly check for new resources** – New OER is created all the time, and it is worth regularly reviewing what is available.

## 4 OER Repositories

For available OER in a variety of subjects, below is a brief list of several high-quality resources:

- [OER Commons](#) are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse.
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Books](#)
- [MIT Online Textbooks](#)
- [Open SUNY Textbooks](#)
- [Open Textbook Network and the Open Textbook Library](#): The Open Textbook Library is unique among OER indexes. Faculty are encouraged (and sometimes incentivized) to write reviews of OERs within the Open Textbook Library. For information about the OTN check the website). Purdue libraries are a member of this network.
- [Minnesota OER Commons](#) is part of a statewide collaborative called Minnesota Learning Commons (MnLC), which offers consulting, training, and a suite of tools for the use of OER in K12 and higher education.
- [Purdue e-Pubs](#) is Purdue's open access repository. Resources here are freely available to anyone.



## 5 Additional Resources

For Purdue University users - if you are interested in exploring the use of OER in your course for either full or partial replacement of course material that you currently use, the Teaching and Learning Technologies department may be able to help. Please reach out to [TLT@purdue.edu](mailto:TLT@purdue.edu) to request a consultation; incentives may apply.

## 6 References

Creative Commons. (n.d). Retrieved from

<https://creativecommons.org/>

Hilton, J. (2016). Open educational resources and college textbook choices: a review of research on efficacy and perceptions. *Educational Technology Research and Development* 64(4), 573-590.

Review Project. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<http://openedgroup.org/review>