

A Guide to Teaching with Open Educational Resources (OER)

Background



What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others.



What do these include?

Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

Benefits



What are the benefits for faculty in using OER in teaching?

1. Sends message of inclusivity to students with concern about textbook/materials cost.
2. Ability to customize materials for teaching.
3. Opportunities to create new instructional materials; this can include collaborations with colleagues.
4. Opportunities to engage students with content creation.



What are the benefits for students when instructors use OER in teaching?

1. Lower costs/no cost for textbooks and/or other instructional materials.
2. Opportunities to apply knowledge through creation of content.
3. Ease of accessibility and availability.

Other considerations



What about copyright?

Faculty who are creating OER should be sure any materials used are approved for use by the copyright holder, are in the public domain, obtained through a Creative Commons license, or otherwise in compliance with copyright law.



What about ADA compliance?

Faculty who are using OER should be sure that the materials are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The same is true for faculty who are creating OER.

Next steps



How do I find OER that are appropriate for my courses?

Academic Librarians:
<https://www.library.jhu.edu/directory>
Center for Educational Resources:
<https://cer.jhu.edu> or cerweb@jhu.edu



Are there any more resources available?

For more information on why OER matter, and finding and creating OER, see the Sheridan Libraries LibGuide at, <https://guides.library.jhu.edu/open-educational-resources>