“I paid $0 for my textbooks!”

Open Educational Resources

Chloe Lei | OER Librarian | Oct 22, 2019

How open educational resources make course materials affordable
Warm-up Questions
Overview

- What are OER?
- Why OER?
- What about Quality?
- Open licensing
- The OER Project @ Concordia
What are OER?
Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions.
A Simpler Definition

Free
No Cost
No Barriers

Open
Educational Resources

Permissions
Share  Download  Adapt

Nicole Allen, #OER17: Communicating “Open”, CC BY, https://www.slideshare.net/txtbks/oer17-communicating-open
OER come in many types

- Textbooks
- Videos
- Audio
- Question Banks
- Simulations
- Syllabi
- Curricula
- Courses
- Assessments
OER can be accessed in many ways
OER can be accessed in many ways
5R

- **Retain**: Make and own copies
- **Reuse**: Use in a wide range of ways
- **Revise**: Adapt, adjust, or modify
- **Remix**: Combine with other content
- **Redistribute**: Share with others

David Wiley, Defining the "Open" in Open Content and Open Educational Resources, [https://opencontent.org/definition/](https://opencontent.org/definition/)
OER in the Open Ecosystem

Open Access
Open Source
Open Data
Open Science
Open Scholarship
...

Concordia University Library
OER Development in Canada

Welcome to the Open Library
The home of Open Educational Resources (OER) in Ontario

FIND
Search our collection of open textbooks and other open resources. The curated collection aligns with top subject areas in post-secondary education and features reviews from experts and educators across Canada.

CUSTOMIZE
Did you know open educational resources can be adapted to suit your needs or your students' needs? Learn how to customize an OER for your course.

CREATE
There are many tools to create OER. Get started with ePubs or books or explore other options to create a resource for the Open Library.

Search Resources...
Why OER?
Benefits of OER

Significant cost savings
How it feels like to be a student

Benefits of OER

- Significant cost savings
- Equity of access for all with no restrictions
When textbooks get too expensive...

- 57% have opted not to purchase a required textbook
- 86% reported academic downsides to not purchasing textbooks

"Alternatives":
- Use an older edition
- Use the library copy
- Share with classmates/friends
- Photocopy the whole book
- Download online from questionable platforms
- ...

The case of “digital access” or “Inclusive access”
Benefits of OER

- Significant cost savings
- Easily customize course materials to suit local context and teaching needs
- Equity of access for all, and can be kept forever

Photo by John Schnobrich, public domain, https://unsplash.com/photos/2FPjlAyMQTA
Icons created using Noun Project
Changes to this book, as a whole, were made to achieve the following goals.

1. Replace U.S.-centric content with Canadian content. This included examples, case studies, significant figures, perspectives and, more pragmatically, spelling, idioms, measurements and grammatical structure and style.
2. Add feminist theory and feminist perspectives throughout the text.
3. Add Canadian aboriginal perspectives and content.
4. Added chapter on Religion

Key Terms, Section Summary, Quiz, Further Research, and References in each chapter have been updated to reflect new chapter content.
Benefits of OER

- Significant cost savings
- Easily customize course materials to suit local context and teaching needs
- Equity of access for all, and can be kept forever
- Positive impact on learning experience and academic success

Photo by John Schnobrich, public domain, https://unsplash.com/photos/2FPjlAyMQTA
Icons created using Noun Project
Impact on student efficacy and user perceptions

- Students achieve the same or better learning outcomes when using OER
- A positive experience and would do so again
- OER are of equal or higher quality as commercial textbooks
What about Quality?
Free ≠ low quality?
• Written by professional content developers who are experts in their fields

• OpenStax textbooks undergo a rigorous peer review process before publication

• Updates are made regularly to ensure content accuracy and currency
• An open peer review process that happens post-publication

• Reviewers have to be faculty with teaching experience in the subject

• Each review has to be approved for completeness and comprehensiveness

• An honorarium of $250 for the reviewer
Open Licensing
Foter, How To Attribute Creative Commons Photos, https://foter.com/blog/how-to-attribute-creative-commons-photos/
This book is an adaptation of *Clinical Procedures for Safer Patient Care* by Glynda Rees Doyle and Jodie Anita McCutcheon, and is used under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

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The OER Starter Kit was adapted for an American audience from The ABOER Starter Kit, by Technologies in Education at the Faculty of Education, the University of Alberta, available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

ADDITIONAL ADAPTED RESOURCES

Introduction to Open Educational Resources, “Benefits for Instructors” was adapted from the SUNY OER Community Course, licensed CC BY 4.0.

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Evaluating OER was adapted from the Affordable Learning Georgia Selecting Textbooks webpage.

Diversity & Inclusion was adapted from Including all students by SUNY OER Services, licensed CC BY 4.0.

Planning & Completing Your OER Project was adapted from UH OER Training by Billy Meinke and University of Hawai‘i Outreach College, licensed CC BY 4.0.

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Accessibility & Usability was adapted from the Affordable Learning Georgia Accessibility webpage and UH OER Training by Billy Meinke and University of Hawai‘i Outreach College, licensed CC BY 4.0.
The OER Project @ Concordia University
Digital Strategy – 8 Projects

- Process Review and Service Redesign
- Teaching and Learning Innovation Lab
- Open Educational Resources
- AR, VR, and Simulations
- Concordia Hub
- Course Recordings
- Orientation
- Digital Capabilities
The 1st year

Exploration  Experimentation  Outreach

Recommendation
OER Grants

To adopt, customize, or create an open textbook

4 Grants Awarded

Education (create)

Engineering (create)

Health (customize)

Journalism (create)
# OER Grants

## 2nd round

_Adopt or customize projects in this round_

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-October, 2019</td>
<td>Call for proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2019</td>
<td>Application deadline</td>
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<td>December 6, 2019</td>
<td>Result announcement</td>
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THANK YOU

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https://www.concordia.ca/library/guides/oer