

Open Educational Resources

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Definition

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.

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

History

The high cost of university education threatens many potential students ability to access higher education, but a growing group of professionals is trying to help defray costs by applying lessons from open source development to course material development. These open educational resource (OER) supporters are actively advocating for open pedagogy and creating openly licensed, high-quality textbooks.

The term was first used at a UNESCO conference in 2002. But, the MIT OpenCourseWare project, which began in 2001, was one of the first major initiatives of the OER movement.

Most popular OER platforms

OER initiatives aspire to provide open access to high-quality education resources on a global scale. From large institution-based or institution-supported initiatives to numerous small-scale activities, the number of OER related programmes and projects has been growing quickly within the past few years.

MIT OpenCourseWare - the first OER platform, which includes lectures and other educational facilities. This platform contains 5 departments:

1. School of Architecture and Planning
 - Architecture
 - Media Arts and Sciences
 - Urban Studies and Planning
2. School of Engineering
 - Aeronautics and Astronautics

- Biological Engineering
 - Chemical Engineering
 - Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
 - Engineering Systems Division
 - Health Sciences and Technology
 - Institute for Data, Systems, and Society
 - Materials Science and Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Nuclear Science and Engineering
3. School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
- Anthropology
 - Comparative Media Studies/Writing
 - Economics
 - Global Studies and Languages
 - History
 - Linguistics and Philosophy
 - Literature
 - Music and Theater Arts
 - Political Science
 - Science, Technology, and Society
 - Women's and Gender Studies
4. School of Science
- Biology
 - Brain and Cognitive Sciences
 - Chemistry
 - Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
 - Mathematics
 - Physics
5. Sloan School of Management
- Management

The Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. They provides various studying materials in:

1. Math
2. Science and engineering
3. Computing
4. Art and humanities
5. Economic and finance

OER Commons is a freely accessible online library that allows teachers and others to search and discover open educational resources (OER) and other freely available instructional materials.

Vision behind the project:

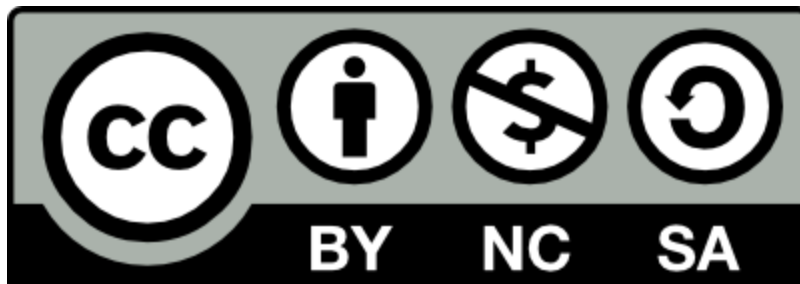
OER Commons, which was developed in order to stimulate the development of a teaching and learning ecosystem that thrives on interaction, participation and knowledge sharing, aggregates OER within a social networking environment.

OER Commons aggregates existing OER and helps to open new resources within a network that allows teachers, students and self-learners to find materials more easily, but more importantly, to engage users around their development and improvement. Instead of sharing information in traditional environments such as teachers' lounges and academic conferences, OER Commons offers a way for participants to attach to each educational resource their classroom experiences, teaching or learning strategies, and other knowledge—providing context for others to build upon. In this way, new teachers, non-domain experts (such as parents or others), student learners, and seasoned practitioners have access to shared techniques, notes and recommendations for use, related resources, reviews and quality assessments.

Most importantly, it is a model that allows users to connect content to context, and transforms OER from isolated materials to an integrated process of resource improvement.

Licence

Most of OER platforms use Creative Commons Licence BY-NC-SA.



It means that you copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format and remix, transform, and build upon it. In addition, you may not use the material for commercial purposes.

In compare, there are some popular educational systems, such as Coursera, edX, Udacity, that have “Copyright all rights reserved” Licence.



Advantages and disadvantages

At first sight, the OER seems like a positive direction in an educational system with following advantages:

- The world's best quality learning resources
- No tuition fees
- Save teacher time
- Continually improved resources

But the OER has the other side of the coin:

- People won't pay for college learning if it is free on-line
- Only population with computers can have access to OER

Links

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<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/open-educational-resources/what-are-open-educational-resources-oers/>

<https://openeducationalresources.pbworks.com/w/page/24836860/What%20are%20Open%20Educational%20Resources>

<https://creativecommons.org/choose>

<https://www.oercommons.org>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources