

Open Educational Resources (OER):
an introductory guide



Remixed by Dr. Valentine Hazelman & Dr. Deepak Prasad for the Fiji National University.
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This is part of a series of good practice guides to prepare you for technology enhanced learning and teaching at FNU and beyond. As more good practice guides become available, you will be notified by adfel@fnu.ac.fj

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Open Education "... is the simple and powerful idea that the world's knowledge is a public good and that technology in general and the Web in particular provide an extraordinary opportunity for everyone to share, use, and reuse knowledge." — The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

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What is this guide about?

This guide provides an introduction to Open Educational Resources or OER for students and teachers at the Fiji National University (FNU). It is intended to broaden user's options beyond commercially available or copyrighted content that can be expensive or difficult to access and use.

There are some common misunderstandings around OER, especially as there are concerns about the source and quality of content. This is understandable and it is important that the source and quality of any content used for academic purposes is questioned or looked at more closely.



What is an OER?

The term 'Open Educational Resources' (OER) describes any educational resources (including course materials, textbooks, videos, multimedia applications, podcasts, or any other materials designed for teaching and learning) which have been made available for use under *open licenses – which means that anyone can use, adapt and redistribute them*. These materials may be available online, in print, on DVD or any other carrier.

Remember the 5Rs for using OER.

The 5 Rs of Open

Retain	Make and own a copy
Reuse	Use in a wide range of ways
Revise	Adapt , modify, and improve
Remix	Combine two or more
Redistribute	Share with others

Copyright vs. OER

Most of what has been created in the 20th and 21st centuries – content to be found in libraries, archives, museums and on the Web – is still under copyright.

- If we create and publish something new on the Internet today, without charges or restrictions such as DRM¹ (Digital Rights Management), our work is available to read, watch, hear or use only for personal purposes.
- Our work is not available for others to copy, republish, update, remix, re-arrange, correct, create an alternative version of or add to Wikipedia. In order to do any of these things, one needs to obtain written permission, e.g. a specific license, from the author or copyright holder; and to do that one first needs to contact them.
- Open licenses reverse the copyright model and encourage authors and institutions to clearly state rights and permissions when publishing content.
- Choosing open licenses (such as the Creative Commons Attribution license – more on this is covered below) makes reusing content and cooperation easy and quick, eliminating the need to negotiate and reducing legal issues with seeking copyright clearance.

¹ A systematic approach to copyright protection for digital media. The purpose of DRM is to prevent unauthorized redistribution of digital media and restrict the ways consumers can copy content they've purchased.

- Using licenses compatible with the Open Definition ensures that users have clear rights, that the barrier to reuse is lowered, and that educational resources increase. Just like Wikipedia is in the public domain, it opens up new, and progressive ideas that would not have been possible in the past.

Licensing

Just as copyrighted content is bound by licensing rules, so is OER. You may have come across this symbol © in publications. This is referred to as the copyright symbol, or copyright sign used in copyright notices for works. OER on the other hand uses a Creative Commons license, denoted by the (cc) symbol in publications.

Creative Commons is actually a license that is applied to a work that is protected by copyright. It is not separate from copyright, but instead a way of easily sharing copyrighted work, i.e. giving permission in advance. Therefore, Creative Commons confers a more relaxed approach to sharing and using works without giving up total control or spending countless hours granting permissions.

Note: if you license your work, you are giving someone permission to use it. The *restrictions* you place on the license tells the person getting the license (called the “licensee”), “You can do what you want with the work, except for these things.”

Creative Commons licensing uses four basic restrictions:

1. **Attribution** 

This requires people who use your work to attribute it to you. No cropping the image to cut off your name or, worse, replacing your name with theirs. They have to let people know that you are the creator or licensor of your work.

2. **Non-Commercial** 

This means that they can use your work as long as they are not using it for a commercial purpose. What does that mean? Creative Commons defines commercial use as, “primarily intended for or directed toward commercial advantage or private monetary compensation.”

3. **No Derivatives** 

A derivative work is a work that modifies the original copyrighted work. So a movie is a derivative work of a novel. You do not need to have such radical changes to constitute a derivative work, though; a sequel to a novel is also a derivative work. If a work is shared under a No Derivatives license, they can use your work as long as they do not modify it.

4. **Share Alike** 

One of the more permissive restrictions, share alike allows others to use and modify your work so long as they allow others to use and modify the work they create using your work.

All Creative Commons licenses carry the attribution requirement. You can mix and match the other restrictions that best suits you. Attribution Share Alike, Attribution Share Alike Non Commercial, Attribution No Derivatives, etc.

Note: The only two restrictions that do not play well with one another are the Share Alike and No Derivative restrictions.

Traditional Textbooks vs. OER: What's the same and What's different?

	Traditional Textbook	Open Textbook	Open Educational Resources (OER)
What is its purpose?	Provides basic course content for student reading and reference	Provides basic course content for student reading and reference	Provides basic course content for student reading and reference
What does it look like?	A single one-size-fits all book (or e-book)	A: A single book (or e-book) adopted as-is B: A single book (or e-book) adopted with customization by the instructor	A: An online collection of resources curated, remixed and customized by the instructor B: The same as (A) above, in printable format for those students who prefer print
How does an instructor choose it?	A. Through evaluation of sample copy provided by the publisher, in print or online. B. Peer review by publisher often assumed but not shared.	A. Through evaluation of free online copy. In some cases a print sample copy is available. B. Peer reviews often available	A. Through searching and evaluating component resources found in OER repositories. Search is based on specific learning outcomes and content needs defined by the instructor B. Peer reviews are often available
How is it adopted by an instructor?	Selection is made and approved by colleagues, department head and/or dean, depending on the policies of the college. The bookstore is also included and notified of changes to text selection.	Selection is made and approved by colleagues, department head and/or dean, depending on the policies of the college. The bookstore is also included and notified of changes to text selection.	Selection is made and approved by colleagues, department head and/or dean, depending on the policies of the college. The bookstore is also included and notified of changes to text selection.
How do students use it?	A. Students bring the text (or e-book equivalent) to class and back as needed. B. Students may choose to read and annotate in print or with a mobile device	A. Students bring the text (or e-book equivalent) to class and back as needed. B. Students may choose to read and annotate in print or with a mobile device C. Customization ensures that the book is only as big as it needs to be.	A. Students print those portions that are needed for class. B. Students may choose to read and annotate in print or with a mobile device. C. Customization ensures that the resources shared are all relevant to the course
How much do students pay?	The average cost of a college textbook is around \$175 per course	A. Free for online access B. Around \$30-\$60 for printed and bound copies, or cost of printing PDF	A. Free for online access B. Cost of printing PDF

This worksheet developed by Kate Hess, Library Coordinator, Kirkwood Community College. October 17, 2014, and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution license. For digital copy see <http://guides.kirkwood.edu/opentextbooks>

How do I find OER?

If you are not creating or remixing OER, perhaps you would like to just find OER to use in your assignments, courses materials, research or other publications. One of the most convenient ways to locate OER is through a regular Google search!

1. In your Internet browser, go to the following 'Advanced Search' link:

https://www.google.com/advanced_search

Find pages with...

all these words:	<input type="text"/>	To do this in the search box.
this exact word or phrase:	<input type="text"/>	Type the important words: tri-colour rat terrier
any of these words:	<input type="text"/>	Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier"
none of these words:	<input type="text"/>	Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard
numbers ranging from:	<input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	Put a minus sign just before words that you don't want: -rodent, -"Jack Russell"
		Put two full stops between the numbers and add a unit of measurement: 10..35 kg, £300..£500, 2010..2011

Then narrow your results by...

language:	any language	Find pages in the language that you select.
region:	any region	Find pages published in a particular region.
last update:	anytime	Find pages updated within the time that you specify.
site or domain:	<input type="text"/>	Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov
terms appearing:	anywhere in the page	Search for terms in the whole page, page title or web address, or links to the page you're looking for.
SafeSearch:	Show most relevant results	Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content.
file type:	any format	Find pages in the format that you prefer.
usage rights:	not filtered by licence	Find pages that you are free to use yourself.

Advanced Search

2. Type in your key words or phrases and other relevant information in the search field above so you can narrow your search to get more specific results.

Then in the 'usage rights' field, use the drop down menu to select options for free to use pages, then select 'Advanced Search'. Your results will be displayed.

not filtered by licence

- not filtered by licence
- free to use or share
- free to use or share, even commercially
- free to use share or modify
- free to use, share or modify, even commercially

Here are some places that you can look for OER to retain, reuse, revise, remix or redistribute. By all means do not limit yourself to these sources.

<http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/>

<http://oli.cmu.edu/>

<http://www.learningpod.com/>

<http://cnx.org/>

<http://lumenlearning.com/>

<http://openstaxcollege.org/>

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

<http://www.opentextbookstore.com/index.php>

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/online-textbooks/>

<https://saylor.longsight.com/>

<https://www.oercommons.org/>

<http://florida.theorange grove.org/og/access/home.do>

<http://opencourse library.org/>

<https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/>

<http://www.oeconsortium.org/>

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>

How do I use OER?

Using OER once you have scrutinised your OER search results carefully is fairly simple. Refer to the Creative Commons licensing use restrictions stated earlier. The illustration below also provides similar guidance. You only need to select one of the six if you are intending to place conditions on the use of your work, or deciding which license you would like to use which has the least restrictions. Educational resources released under CC-BY-ND and CC-BY-NC-ND are generally not considered as OER.

The diagram illustrates the hierarchy of Creative Commons licenses based on the level of freedom they allow. A green arrow on the left points upwards, labeled "Most freedom!", while a red arrow points downwards, labeled "Least freedom!".

		Attribution Others may copy, redistribute, remix, transform, and build on the work for any purpose, even commercially. Users must give credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.
		Share Alike Others may remix, tweak, and build on your work even for commercial purposes as long as they credit you and licence their new creations under the identical terms.
		Non-Commercial Others may remix, tweak, and build upon your works non-commercially. Their new works must acknowledge you and be non-commercial, but they are not required to license their derivative works on the same terms.
		No Derivatives Others may redistribute, commercially or non-commercially, as long as the work is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to you.

Here is another way of choosing OER when considering the 5Rs with CC licensing:

	Retain	Reuse	Revise	Remix	Redistribute
Public Domain					
CC-BY					
CC-BY-SA			Same license		
CC-BY-NC					Non-commercial
CC-BY-NC-SA			Same license		
CC-BY-ND			Personal use only		
CC-BY-NC-ND					

Where do I get more help with OER?

If you would like to know more about using OER, please contact:

- clte@fnu.ac.fj or
- cfel@fnu.ac.fj

Additional resources

More resources on OER and CC can be found at:

- <https://www.oercommons.org/>
- <https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer>
- <https://library.educause.edu/topics/teaching-and-learning/open-educational-resources-oer>
- <https://creativecommons.org/about/program-areas/education-oer/>

Useful reference links

<http://askus.library.tulsacc.edu/faq/260215>

<https://ejournals.lib.vt.edu/valib/article/view/1326/1796>

<https://nicholls.libguides.com/OER>

<https://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/digital-rights-management>

https://teaching.usask.ca/documents/gmctl/OPEN_ForInstructors.pdf

<https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/legislation/details/1542>

<https://www.ilearncollaborative.org/vol-4-how-open-education-resources-work>

<https://www.slideshare.net/KrystaMcNuttPMP/speedy-intro-to-oer-oe-week-mar-9-2018>

<https://www.wipo.int/portal/en/>

<https://www.workmadeforhire.net/the-rest/whats-the-difference-between-copyright-and-creative-commons/>