Getting Started with Open Educational Resources

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What’s the problem?
Textbook prices still rising during a pandemic

September 08, 2020 Katelyn Dodge, Staff Writers
What do textbook costs affect?

- Grades
- Retention
- Food security & homelessness
Students Can’t Learn From Books They Can’t Afford
Coping with the Cost

- Purchase an older edition of the textbook
- Delay purchasing the textbook
- Never purchase the textbook
- Share the textbook with other students
- Download textbooks from the internet
What the Heck are OER?
Open Educational Resources are teaching resources that are **free of cost and access barriers**, and which also carry **legal permission for open use**, which allows anyone to freely use, adapt, and share the resource.

-SPARC
Open = free + permissions
What kind of permissions?

- **Retain** - make, own, and keep a copy
- **Revise** - edit, adapt, and modify your copy
- **Remix** - combine your original or revised copy with other existing material
- **Reuse** - use your original, revised, or remixed copy of the resource
- **Redistribute** - share copies of your original, revised, or remixed copy with others (e.g., post a copy online)
Explicit through licensing

- **Copyright**: “All rights reserved”
- **Creative Commons**: “Some rights reserved”
- **Public Domain**: “No rights reserved”

Image from *OER Basics* by Kelsey Smith, licensed CC BY 4.0.
This is a **broad definition** for a reason.
You may find a lot...
You may find a lot...

You may find a little.
Check in Regularly for Updates

Newest Open Textbooks

Languages and Worldview

Parenting and Family Diversity Issues

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

ARGUING USING CRITICAL THINKING
Benefits of Adopting OER

- Reduces costs for students
- Supports student success & retention
- Allows for quicker updates and circulation of content
- Empowers faculty to innovate
- Content can be adapted, updated, and remixed
Challenges of Adopting OER

- Locating and assessing content takes time
- Some disciplines have more OER than others
- Some disciplines have more ancillary OER than others
- Older open content may disappear from the internet if the author does not back up their content
Where do I find OER?
Before you begin

Consider what you **need**
Familiarize yourself with OER repositories
Start general and then get specific
OER Repositories

- Open Textbook Library
- LibreTexts
- BCcampus
- OER Commons
- OpenStax
The process in action

1. Identify keywords
2. Search broadly (OASIS, BCCampus, Google)
3. Curate content
4. Reflect and repeat

I.S.C.R □ “I scout compatible resources”
OER Treasure Hunt Worksheet

For a guided walk through this process, download a copy of my worksheet:

bit.ly/oertreasurehunt
And remember...
... you’re the expert.

Evaluate OER the same way you would any resource, based on how it fits the needs of your course.
How do I use OER?
Open Educational Practices

• Replace your textbook with an open one
• Integrate ancillary OER as self-study materials or examples
• Integrate open pedagogy to create OER with your students
• Do research on your use of OER and the content available
You Have Options

This is not an either/or conversation.
You can adopt some OER without jumping in completely!
You Have Options

• Open Educational Resources (OER)
• Course Reserves
• Textbook rentals
• Used books
• Course packs
• And more!
INNOVATE!

- There is no single “right way” to use OER
- Start small and innovate on what others have done before
- You don’t need to leap in if you cannot find something that meets your needs
Learning More

Use one of the many online resources available to learn more about OER and how you can integrate them into your course!

bit.ly/oerstarterkit
Questions?