

Open Educational Resources and Copyright Considerations

What is an Open Educational Resources (OER)?

Open Educational Resources (OER) is a term used to describe educational materials that are free to use, re-use, and share.

The term OER has been used to refer to learning materials such as:

- [Learning objects](#) (quizzes, crossword puzzles, flashcards, animations, interactive maps, timelines, etc.)
- Audio lectures
- Video micro-lectures
- [Images](#)
- Sounds and music
- Entire course content
- [Collections of journal articles](#) and institutional repositories
- [Textbooks](#)

This is made possible by using **open licenses**. An open license allows you to use that resource without paying for a license. A few examples of open licenses are Creative Commons; Open Publication License; GNU Free Documentation License. That said, not all open licenses are created equal. While all of the resources here are generally free for personal use or use in a small setting (such as a classroom), many are restricted when it comes to large-scale distribution, or modification in any way, including translation. See the chart below for guidelines and resources for freely distributable content licensing. Note that where sites carry default licenses, there may be exceptions that are clearly identified.

What does an OER look like? OER can be in the form of, well, anything--from a Learning Management System (LMS), to a course or module, to a great looking video, game or a couple of simple images. But remember, while the resources may be free, *always give a credit to the person or location from which you access the OER*. Please see http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Best_practices_for_attribution for proper attribution formatting under the terms of these licenses.

Resources by Discipline

ATTRIBUTION-ONLY, or with SHARE ALIKE

The following websites contain solely freely available, modifiable, and sharable resources, in exchange for proper attribution to the content author.

<i>Business</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
Connexions Connexions is a dynamic	WikiEducator http://wikieducator.org/Main	Public Library of Science Research articles in the

digital educational ecosystem consisting of an educational content repository. http://cnx.org/content/browse_content/subject/Business	<u>Page</u> WikiEducator is a community project working collaboratively with the <u>Free Culture Movement</u> towards a free version of the education curriculum by 2015.	sciences http://www.plos.org/
Site-wide CC – BY. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY-SA. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY. OK to use.
	PhET http://phet.colorado.edu/ PhET provides fun, interactive, <u>research-based</u> simulations of physical phenomena for free. We believe that our research-based approach- incorporating findings from prior research and our own testing- enables students to make connections between real-life phenomena and the underlying science, deepening their understanding and appreciation of the physical world.	
	Site-wide CC-BY or GNU-GPL. OK to use. Premium cost to translate (based on toolset and workflow required)	

NON-COMMERCIAL USE ALLOWED

The following websites contain resources that may be used, modified and shared for non-commercial projects. Use for Specializations qualifies as non-profit at most higher education institutions. Each university will need to confirm that this use is within the scope of their mission.

<i>Business</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
	Curriki http://www.curriki.org/ Find free to use learning and teaching content from	

	diverse content providers and educators from around the world.	
	CC-BY-NC unless otherwise stated.	
	Flexbooks “The CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit that creates and aggregates high quality, curated Stem content.” http://www.ck12.org/teacher/	
	CC-BY-NC unless otherwise stated.	
	Khan Academy https://www.khanacademy.org/ Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to anyone completely free of charge.	
	All software downloads are true open source: no rights reserved, no restrictions. OK to use. Will require premium cost and engineering to translate. All other content, including videos, lessons, text, etc. Are defaulted to “CC-BY-NC-SA” unless otherwise noted. Are OK to use non-commercially.	

MIXED LICENSES

The following websites contain resources that bear a variety of licenses. However the license type is clearly displayed and simple to check.

<i>Business</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>
College Open Textbooks - Business http://collegeopentextbooks.org/opentextbookcontent/open-textbooks-by-	OER Commons Searchable repository organized by grade level, subject, type of content and format	MEDtube http://medtube.net/ MEDtube is an online video-centric education and communication Platform for

subject/business	http://www.oercommons.org/	Healthcare Professionals worldwide.
All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” and “CC-BY-NC-SA” OK for non-commercial use. Each book bears own license.	All “No Strings Attached” Resources OK. All “Remix and Share” resources OK for non-commercial use. Others on case-by-case basis.	MEDtube channel on YouTube. Available to use under YouTube Standard License for all markets except China. Items to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
Open Educational Resources Commons - Business http://www.oercommons.org/browse/general_subject/business	Siyavula http://www.siyavula.com/ Technology-Powered Learning. Harnessing technology and openness to revolutionize education.	
All “No Strings Attached” Resources OK. All “Remix and Share” resources OK for non-commercial use. Others on case-by-case basis.	Everything Maths & Science – YES. (CC-BY) OK to use. Thunderbolt – NO. (CC-BY-ND. May not be translated.	
	EDU YouTube http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3yA8nDwraeOfnYfBWun83g Whether you're doing research for a project, need help with homework, or just want to learn something new, YouTube EDU features some of our most popular educational videos across YouTube.	
	Embedded player covered under terms of service. OK to use for all markets but China. Material to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise each video bears its own license. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-	

	NC” are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.	
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Resources by Type

*For more OER by discipline, see the charts above.

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The following websites contain solely freely available, modifiable, and sharable resources, in exchange for proper attribution to the content author.

<i>Articles/Journals</i>	<i>Textbooks</i>	<i>Multimedia</i>
Public Library of Science Research articles in the sciences http://www.plos.org/	Open Stax Peer-reviewed college textbooks online. https://openstaxcollege.org/books	Vimeo Shared videos. Includes non-educational content as well. http://vimeo.com/
Site-wide CC-BY license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY license. OK to use.	Default usage is non-commercial and allows derivative work (translation).
	Global Textbook Project Open document format for textbooks in business, computing, education, health, sciences and social sciences http://globaltext.terry.uga.edu/books	Wikimedia Commons Freely usable media files http://commons.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
	Site-wide CC-BY license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY-SA. License. OK to use.
	Wikibooks From the founders of wikipedia, open access textbooks contributed by scholars, educators and others. http://www.wikibooks.org/	PhET PhET provides fun, interactive, research-based simulations of physical phenomena for free. http://phet.colorado.edu/
	Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY or GNU-GPL. OK to use. Premium cost to translate (based on

		toolset and workflow required)
	Flat World Knowledge - Textbooks, searchable by subject. Open content now hosted at Saylor. http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/ http://www.saylor.org/books/	
	Site-wide CC-BY-SA. License. OK to use.	
	Flexbooks “The CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit that creates and aggregates high quality, curated Stem content.” http://www.ck12.org/teacher/	
	Default license is CC-BY-NC. OK for non-commercial use.	

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<i>Articles/Journals</i>	<i>Textbooks</i>	<i>Multimedia</i>
Scholarpedia Open access encyclopedia, curated by subject experts http://www.scholarpedia.org/	Flexbooks “The CK-12 Foundation is a non-profit that creates and aggregates high quality, curated Stem content.” http://www.ck12.org/teacher/	
Default license is CC-BY-NC-SA. OK for non-commercial use.	Default license is CC-BY-NC. OK for non-commercial use.	

MIXED LICENSES

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<i>Articles/Journals</i>	<i>Textbooks</i>	<i>Multimedia</i>
Directory of Open Access Journals Think of this as free proquest. Full text, peer-reviewed journal articles in all subject areas. http://www.doaj.org/	College Open Textbooks Organized by subject, with various open licenses. http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org	YouTube EDU YouTube EDU features some of our most popular educational videos across YouTube. http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3yA8nDwraeOfnYfBWun83g
All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All items listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially. Each journal bears own license.	All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All items listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially. Each book bears own license.	OK to use under YouTube Terms of Service. Market in China is problematic based on requirement to re-host. Materials to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
		Ted Video links to lectures by notable experts in science, global issues, technology, business and design http://www.ted.com/
		OK to use under YouTube Terms of Service. Market in China is problematic based on requirement to re-host. Materials to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
		Creative Commons Find images with open licences http://search.creativecommons.org/
		All resources returned from search with both filter options applied (commercial purposes and modification) are OK to use. Resources returned with only “modification” option applied are OK to use non-commercially.
		Slideshare

		Power points searchable by tag terms or a search bar. http://www.slideshare.net/
		All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All items listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially. Each presentation bears own license.
		Critical Commons Video clips, lectures and articles. Sort of a “YouTube” for the higher ed set. http://criticalcommons.org/
		Anything flagged as “Distributor: YouTube” is OK to use for all markets but China. Items selected for distribution in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Anything flagged as “Distributor: Vimeo” should be reviewed case-by-case. Anything with no distributor flagged is rights reserved, do not use.
		MEDtube An online video-centric education and communication Platform for Healthcare Professionals worldwide. http://medtube.net/
		MEDtube channel available on YouTube. OK to use under YouTube Terms of Service. Market in China is problematic based on requirement to re-host. Materials to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Non-specific Resources

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<i>Non-Specific</i>		
<p>P2PU https://p2pu.org/en/ Peer 2 Peer University (we mostly just say P2PU) is a grassroots open education project that organizes learning outside of institutional walls and gives learners recognition for their achievements.</p>	<p>Quora https://www.quora.com/ Quora’s mission is to share and grow the world’s knowledge. Quora is your best source of knowledge. Ask any question, get real answers from people with first hand experience, and blog about what you know.</p>	<p>Wikibooks From the founders of wikipedia, open access textbooks contributed by scholars, educators and others. http://www.wikibooks.org/</p>
Site-wide CC-BY-SA. OK to use.	Non-standard but open content, attribution-only license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.
<p>Wikiversity http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Wikiversity:Main_Page Wikiversity</p>	<p>Global Textbook Project Open document format for texbooks in business, computing, education, health, sciences and social sciences http://globaltext.terry.uga.edu/books</p>	<p>Wikimedia Commons Freely usable media files http://commons.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page</p>
Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY license. OK to use.	Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.
<p>Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia http://www.wikipedia.com</p>	<p>Vimeo Shared videos. Includes non-educational content as well. http://vimeo.com/</p>	<p>Open Stax https://openstaxcollege.org/books Peer-reviewed college textbooks online.</p>
Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.	Base usage is non-commercial and allows derivative work (translation). Other licenses may be granted by the contributor at their	Site-wide CC-BY license. OK to use.

	discretion.	
Flat World Knowledge - http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/ Textbooks, searchable by subject. Open content now hosted at Saylor. http://www.saylor.org/books/		
Site-wide CC-BY-SA license. OK to use.		

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<i>Non-specific</i>		
CMU Open Learning Initiative http://oli.cmu.edu/ The Open Learning Initiative (OLI) is a grant-funded group at Carnegie Mellon University , offering innovative online courses to anyone who wants to learn or teach. Our aim is to create high-quality courses and contribute original research to improve learning and transform higher education.	Scholarpedia Open access encyclopedia, curated by subject experts http://www.scholarpedia.org/	MIT Open Courseware http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm OCW makes the materials used in the teaching of MIT's subjects available on the Web.
Default license is CC-BY-NC-SA. OK for non-commercial use.	Site-wide CC-BY-NC-SA license. OK to use non-commercially.	Site-wide CC-BY-NC-SA. OK to use non-commercially. Some pre-translated courses available.

MIXED LICENSES

The following websites contain resources that bear a variety of licenses. However the license

type is clearly displayed and simple to check.

<i>Non-specific</i>		
<p>Open Tapestry http://www.opentapestry.com/ Open Tapestry is all about discovering, adapting, and sharing learning resources, whether you're a teacher, an instructor, a professor, a corporate trainer, a learner, or just a curious mind!</p>	<p>College Open Textbooks http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org Organized by subject, with various open licenses.</p>	<p>Jorum “Find and use thousands of free OER from a wide variety of subject areas. All resources have been shared by those who teach in or create content for the further and higher education communities in the UK.” http://www.jorum.ac.uk/</p>
<p>Creative Commons is standard on the site but no default license is applied. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>	<p>The license for each text is displayed on the subject listing pages. All CC-BY and CC-BY-SA licenses are OK to use. NC-attributed items are OK to use non-commercially.</p>	<p>Creative Commons is standard on the site but no default license is applied. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” items are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>
<p>Directory of Open Access Books New site from the group that gave us doaj! includes over 700 peer-reviewed, open-licensed titles http://www.doabooks.org</p>	<p>Ted-Ed http://ed.ted.com/ TED-Ed’s commitment to creating lessons worth sharing is an extension of TED’s mission of spreading great ideas. Within TED-Ed’s growing library of lessons, you will find carefully curated educational videos, many of which represent collaborations between talented educators and animators nominated through the TED-Ed platform.</p>	<p>Directory of Open Access Journals think of this as free proquest. Full text, peer-reviewed journal articles in all subject areas. http://www.doaj.org/</p>
<p>Creative Commons is prevalent on the site (but not standard), and no default license is applied. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-</p>	<p>Embedded player covered under YouTube terms of service, where TEDED hosts. OK to use for all markets but China. Items</p>	<p>All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All items listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially. (Each</p>

<p>SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” items are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>	<p>to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise each video bears its own license. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>	<p>journal bears own license.)</p>
<p>Critical Commons Video clips, lectures and articles. Sort of a “you tube” for the higher ed set. http://criticalcommons.org/</p>	<p>Slideshare Power points searchable by tag terms or a search bar. http://www.slideshare.net/</p>	
<p>Anything flagged as “Distributor: YouTube” is OK to use for all markets but China. Items to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Anything flagged as Distributor: Vimeo” should reviewed case-by-case. Anything with no distributor flagged is rights reserved, do not use.</p>	<p>All “CC-BY” and “CC-BY-SA” OK to use. All items listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially. Each presentation bears own license.</p>	

AGGREGATION SITES

The following websites do not typically contain their own resources but act as a link-driven index to other sites. They are generally helpful as research tools to evaluate groups of resource collections. Some carry rights information while others do not.

<p>OERUS http://oerus.wikispaces.com/home This wiki is set up to catalog university-based open educational resources projects. Currently we are</p>	<p>MERLOT http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm MERLOT is a free and open peer reviewed collection of online teaching and learning materials and faculty-</p>	<p>Online College Classes http://www.onlinecollegeclasses.com/ Who says studying requires you to hit the books? Some of the best educational resources out there are right</p>
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focusing only English-speaking OER projects.	developed services contributed and used by an international education community.	here.
Helpful hub to higher-education-hosted open resources. All sites listed as “CC By” and “CC By SA” are OK to use. All sites listed with NC attribute are OK to use non-commercially.	This is an aggregation site. To explore I recommend “other filters” be set to “Creative Commons.” The license for each resource is displayed on its detail page (click on the title from the search results page). All CC-BY and CC-BY-SA licenses are OK to use. NC-attributed items are OK to use non-commercially.	This is an aggregation site. Rights to the materials are contained on the sites that are linked from this site.
OER Africa: Building African education capacity through openness http://www.oerafrica.org/ OER Africa is a ground-breaking initiative established by the South African Institute for Distance Education (Saide). We play a leading role in supporting higher education institutions across Africa in the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to enhance teaching and learning.	Course Ware search Includes course content from nearly a dozen institutions, including MIT, Yale, UMass and Notre Dame http://www.ocwsearch.com/	Extreme Learning http://www.extreme-learning.org/ This includes learning with technology when in various locations such as a park, plane, train, subway, boat, or car.
This is an aggregation site of partner sites that are all standardized on Creative Commons. No default license is applied. Review the license information contained at the URI for each resource. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” are OK to use non-commercially.	This is a link aggregation site. Rights to the materials are contained on the sites that are linked from this site.	This is an aggregation site. Rights to the materials are contained on the sites that are linked from this site.

<p>Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>		
<p>Open Courseware Consortium http://www.ocwconsortium.org/ The OpenCourseWare Consortium is a worldwide community of hundreds of higher education institutions and associated organizations committed to advancing open education and its impact on global education.</p>	<p>Open Culture http://www.openculture.com/ Open Culture brings together high-quality cultural & educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community. Free audio books, free online courses, free movies, free language lessons, free ebooks and other enriching content — it’s all here.</p>	<p>The Orange Grove Florida’s digital repository for educational content http://florida.theorangegrove.org</p>
<p>This is an aggregation site. Rights to the materials are contained on the sites that are linked from this site.</p>	<p>Video and image aggregation site. For YouTube-hosted videos (majority of material), embedded player covered under terms of service. OK to use for all markets but China. Items to be distributed in China must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise each video bears its own license. All “CC-BY,” “CC-BY-SA” course materials are OK to use. All “CC-BY-NC” items are OK to use non-commercially. Anything licensed with “ND” or “no derivative” may not be translated.</p>	<p>This is a link aggregation site. Rights to the materials are contained on the sites that are linked from this site.</p>
<p>Internet Archive https://archive.org/ The Internet Archive includes: texts, audio, moving images, and software as well as archived web pages in our collections, and provides specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the</p>	<p>University of the People http://www.uopeople.org/ University of the People (UoPeople) is the world’s first non-profit, tuition-free, accredited online academic institution dedicated to opening access to higher education globally for all qualified individuals, despite</p>	<p>e-Science Central http://esciencecentral.org/science_journals.php Science Central through its Open Access Initiative enables the dissemination of research articles to the global community and provides various scientific articles such as review articles, short</p>

blind and other persons with disabilities.	financial, geographic or societal constraints.	communication, case studies etc.
This is a media aggregation site. Rights to the materials are maintained by the content provider.	Interesting to review from a model perspective. Not a content resource site.	This is a media aggregation site. Rights to the materials are maintained by the content provider.

LOER12 Micro-MOOC

Open Educational Resources (OER) provide a wealth of materials that further develop and enrich an educator’s storehouse of instructional materials. While our access to these resources are at no cost, finding them can prove challenging. Where can we access the most effective and reliable databases? How can we ensure the quality of the OER we are considering for our own instruction?

<https://loer12.wikispaces.com/Welcome%21>

Creative Commons in Plain English – Free Technology for Teachers

http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2012/10/creative-commons-in-plain-english.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+freetech4teachers%2FcGEY+%28Free+Technology+for+Teachers%29#.UwuHHV7vYql

How to Embed a Creative Commons License in your OER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUVW5fhQP2k&feature=youtu.be>

OER Policy-Related Links

OER Brief for policy makers - http://wikieducator.org/OER_Brief_for_policy_makers

Exemplary Collection of Institutions with OER Policy -

http://wikieducator.org/Exemplary_Collection_of_institutions_with_OER_policy

“Attribution Only” as Default Policy – Otago Polytechnic on the How and Why of CC BY -

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/8235>

Featured Institution: Otago Polytechnic -

http://wikieducator.org/Otago_Polytechnic:_An_IP_policy_for_the_times

OER Africa: Building African education capacity through openness -

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

UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education -

<http://iite.unesco.org/iite/events/events?id=127>

For additional material on Creative Commons licensing, see Appendix D. For a sample Permissions Letter, see Appendix E.