Open Educational Resources

*Environmental Scan*

# Definition

*"Open Educational Resources (O.E.R.) are teaching and learning materials that are freely available online for everyone to use, whether you are an instructor, student or self-learner. Examples of O.E.R. include: full courses, course modules, syllabi, lectures, homework assignments, quizzes, lab and classroom activities, pedagogical materials, games, simulations, and many more resources contained in digital media collections from around the world."* [O.E.R. Commons](https://www.oercommons.org/)

# Why O.E.R.?

*“The idea of free and open sharing in education is not new. In fact, sharing is probably the most basic characteristic of education: Education is sharing knowledge, insights, and information with others, upon which new knowledge, skills, ideas, and understanding can be built.”* [Open Education Consortium](http://www.oeconsortium.org/about-oec/)

The high cost of textbooks, copyright and reuse restrictions from publishers or in author agreements, the rise of the Internet and the ease of electronic communication and digital publishing, the desire to share knowledge and collaborate on or adapt pedagogy—all contribute to why O.E.R. has relevance to faculty, students, libraries, and educational institutions.

As with other Open movements, open educational resources are not merely available freely online but also can be reused, adapted, translated, mixed together, broken apart, and turned into something new, which then can also be shared and adapted.

# Evaluating Materials

## Considerations

You are starting a road map for your department to assess the availability and quality of free and open educational resources (O.E.R.) relevant to your discipline. Here are some questions to ask:

1. Are you finding materials relevant to the discipline?
	* To what extent are they relevant? To what extent are they lacking?
2. Are these materials at, above, below college level, or considered universal to your discipline?
3. Do these materials support the learning objectives in a specific course and / or the overall program?
4. How would these materials be of utility?
	* E.g., primary course text, homework, supplementary, study material, etc.

## Review Criteria

* Accuracy
* Authority of author/institution
* Alignment with learning outcomes
* Standard of technical production
* Accessibility
* Fitness for purpose
* Cultural Relevance

# Current Availability of Course Materials

## 1. Do your students have challenges accessing required course materials?

[Describe the course materials and associated courses.]

# Department generated resources

## 2. Are there resources already developed by faculty in your department that are shared freely with students?

E.g. instructor generated lab manuals

[Add resources here]

# Environmental Scan

## Accrediting Bodies and/or Professional Organizations

### 3a. Do relevant accrediting bodies have guidelines about course materials and open educational resources?

### 3b. Are there free / open resources provided by professional organizations in your discipline?

[APCHA](https://www.achca.org/), [AHIMA](http://www.ahima.org/)

[Your Answer: Include name of professional organization(s), describe the types of materials, and provide links]

## Open Textbooks

Open textbooks are a form of O.E.R. They are available online, free of charge, free of access restrictions, and are licensed to allow others to reuse, adapt, remix, and otherwise alter the work for their own pedagogical purposes.

### 4. Search these resources for texts related to your discipline:

#### 4a. [Open Textbook Library](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)

[Include materials and links here]

#### 4b. [BC Open Textbooks](https://open.bccampus.ca/browse-our-collection/find-open-textbooks/?subject=)

[Include materials and links here]

## O.E.R. Repositories

O.E.R. Repositories have large collections of many different types of learning materials. They will most likely be licensed to include permission to adapt.

### 5. Search these resources for materials related to your discipline:

#### 5a. [O.E.R. Commons](https://www.oercommons.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7e2VktKQ3gIVyFSGCh3PWQ3ZEAAYASAAEgLKlPD_BwE)

[Include materials and links here]

#### 5b. [MERLOT](https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm)

[Include materials and links here]

##

## O.E.R. Search engines

#### 6.Search the following resources:

#### 6a. [OASIS Search tool](https://oasis.geneseo.edu/index.php)

#### 6b. [Mason O.E.R. Metafinder](https://oer.deepwebaccess.com/oer/desktop/en/search.html)

## General Internet Search

### 7. Search the internet

##### Tips: Search by subject or keyword and “.edu,” “.gov,” and “subject” + “oer,” and “subject” + “libguide”

#### 7a. [Google](https://www.google.com/)

[Include materials and links here]

#### 7b. [Google Scholar](http://cityte.ch/gschol)

This version of Google scholar links up to the library so it’s best [sign in with your offsite credentials](https://library.citytech.cuny.edu/blog/demystifying-e-resources/). If your ID is not yet activated, please follow these steps included at the end of this document.

[Include materials and links here]

## Multimodal Materials

### 8. Search for industry associated videos and more

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#### 8a. [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/)

#### 8b. [Medline Plus](https://medlineplus.gov/healthtopics.html)

## College and University Materials

### 9a. Are there colleges and universities with similar academic programs?

#####  Tip: Search by subject or keyword and “.edu.” Example: Robotics .edu

 *Tip: Search institutional repositories,* [*DSpace SUNY*](https://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu/)*,* [*CUNY Academic Works*](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/)

[Include materials and links here]

## Organizations: Government, Non-profit, & International

## 10. Search relevant organizations including but not limited to

[HHS Featured Topic Sites](https://www.hhs.gov/programs/topic-sites/index.html)

# [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/)

# [Becker’s Hospital Review](https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/)

# [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](https://www.cbpp.org/)

# Summary

Summarize your findings in 200 words or more. Include the scope and breadth of materials located. Discuss materials’ strengths, potential utility, and limitations.

# Recommendations

Share your recommendations in 500 words or more. What do you recommend for next steps given your findings? Are there materials you would recommend your department consider adopting, or adapting? Considerations for authoring?

**Directions for activating your library account remotely:**

Faculty members should email the following information to the Library's Circulation department at **nycctcirculation@citytech.cuny.edu**.

1. A picture of the front of your City Tech ID
2. Mailing address