



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education

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Engaging with Open Educational Resources (OERs)

Rachel Stott, Kelvin Smith Library

Conversation Aspirations

1. *Define* Open Educational Resources and debunk some common myths about OER.
2. *Identify* the benefits of using OER in the classroom.
3. *Discuss and explore* OER repositories and financial support for getting started.

“Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning and research materials in any media – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions.”

UNESCO

What Makes Something an OER?

Is it “free” or is it an OER? These are not synonymous! The copyright license on an OER will allow for the **5 Rs**:

1. **Retain:** make, own, and control copies of the content
2. **Reuse:** use the content in a wide range of ways
3. **Revise:** adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself
4. **Remix:** combine original or revised content with other material to create something new
5. **Redistribute:** share copies of the original content, revisions, or remixes with others

CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSES		COPY & PUBLISH	ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED	COMMERCIAL USE	MODIFY & ADAPT	CHANGE LICENSE
	PUBLIC DOMAIN	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
	CC BY	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
	CC BY-SA	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	CC BY-ND	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	CC BY-NC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	CC BY-NC-SA	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	CC BY-NC-ND	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

You can redistribute (copy, publish, display, communicate, etc.)
 You have to attribute the original work
 You can use the work commercially
 You can modify and adapt the original work
 You can choose license type for your adaptations of the work.

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Ways to Engage with OER

Adopt: Using existing OER materials without modification

Adapt: Taking existing OER and making changes/remixing; [choosing a Creative Commons license](#) and sharing your adaptation

Create: Writing/creating a new OER; [choosing a Creative Commons license](#) and sharing your OER

Matthew Garrett, *Professor & UCITE director* | Jenny Hadingham, *Instructor & UCITE associate director*

Benefits to Using OER

Savings for Students

- Students at private non-profit 4-year institutions spend on average \$1,290 annually on books and supplies *College Board's "[Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2024](#)" report*
- Cost of textbooks can be a barrier for students; deter enrollment; increase Drops/Withdrawals [Open Education Group's Review Project](#)
- Research shows when multiple factors are considered, adopting OER saves students \$116.94 per course. [SPARC* "A New Method for Estimating OER Savings](#)

Academic Freedom and Pedagogy

- More independence in choosing learning materials
- OER-enabled pedagogy can provide a more tailored experience (adapt or create materials that reflect local contexts, demographics, research projects, etc.)
- Opportunities to co-create materials with students
- Address the lack of diversity or equity in some traditional textbooks and learning materials
- Helps ensure students have access to course materials on Day 1

OhioLINK Course Redesign Grants

OhioLINK offers \$650 stipends for faculty who are interested in adopting OER (or other qualifying no- and low-cost course materials, such as library-licensed materials). **Applications for the next cohort are due April 18, 2025!**

For more information and to apply, visit the [OER Course Redesign Grants](#) page.

Learn More!

- [KSL's Guide to OER](#)
- [The OER Starter Kit](#)
- [Faculty OER Toolkit](#)
- [An Open Education Reader](#)
- [Creative Commons FAQs](#)
- [SPARC*](#)
- [OER Mythbusting](#) (SPARC*)
- [Open Education Network](#)
- [Understanding CC Licenses and Generative AI](#)



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