

Searching for OERs: Where to start - Transcript

This video will help you get specific with your search for OER. We'll talk about:

- Narrowing your search by looking for weekly topics
- Using synonyms to improve results
- Starting your search with OER repositories

There are 2 billion openly licensed resources out there - finding one that works perfectly for your unique course and student population can be tricky.

One strategy is to break your course down by topic or week and search for material for just one week instead of looking for a single textbook for the entire course.

When you are looking at your weekly topics remember that you can look for teaching materials other than a reading... a video or interactive experience might work equally well.

If I am teaching a course on information literacy, my topic for week two might be Evaluate Authority - teaching to this would be great with a video and interactivity. Week three might be Fake News with a reading.

You can mix different material to replace a single textbook.

Your step after that is to look at some open educational resource repositories for your topic and material type. *OER Commons*, *eCampus Ontario*, and *MERLOT* are good places to start.

If you aren't finding good results - try changing your search terms. I am using the term "information literacy" but if I were in the UK I would use the term "information fluency." Sometimes switching up your search terms makes a big difference and can help capture international perspectives on your topic.

Keep in mind - you can start small. Pick one or two weeks to start. And do another two weeks the following semester.

I will also recommend keeping track of your weekly topics, search terms, and materials in a spreadsheet so you don't retrace your steps.

To review:

- You can use multiple OERs/ to replace a single textbook
- Break your course down by topic
- Look for materials other than readings
- Start small with one or two weeks
- Keep track of your searches and results

The next video in the series will demonstrate a search in an OER repository.