

OER Toolkit

“OER Toolkit” by [Cheryl Casey](#) is under a [CC BY 4.0 International license](#). This isn’t a complete list, but it should help you start or expand OER usage! URLs are working (unless otherwise noted) as of July 13, 2025.



About OER

- “Defining the ‘Open’ in Open Content and Open Educational Resources” (5R’s) (by David Wiley), https://edtechbooks.org/wild/open_definition
- Open Education (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/open-education>
- OER FAQ (Open Oregon Educational Resources), <https://faq.openoregon.org>
- Open Education (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), <https://hewlett.org/strategy/open-education>
- Open Education Resources (Open Education Global), <https://www.oeglobal.org/oe-resource>
- Connect OER — archived from 2016-2020 (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/connect-oer>, and 2018-2019 Connect OER Annual Report (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/news/2019/sparc-releases-connect-oer-annual-report-for-2018-2019>

OER training resources

- The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers (Rebus Community), <https://press.rebus.community/oerstarterkitpm>
- OER Starter Kit (Abbey Elder of Iowa State University), <https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/oerstarterkit>
- OER Starter Kit Workbook (Abbey Elder & Stacy Katz), <https://cuny.manifoldapp.org/projects/the-oer-starter-kit-workbook>
- OER Toolkit (College Libraries Ontario), <https://tlp-lpa.ca/oer-toolkit>
- “OER Training: 2018 Workbook” (William Meinke of University of Hawai’i Outreach College), <https://pressbooks.oer.hawaii.edu/oertraining2018>
- “Creating Open Educational Resources” (free introductory course from Open University), <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/creating-open-educational-resources/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
- “An Introduction to Open Educational Resources (OER)” (free advanced course from Open University), <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/an-introduction-open-educational-resources-oer/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
- “Open Education” (free advanced course from Open University), <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/open-education/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

OER training programs

- Certificate in Open Education Librarianship (Open Education Network), <https://open.umn.edu/oen/certificate-in-open-education-librarianship> (2023 course materials were released with a CC BY license — see <https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/377736>)
- Creative Commons Certificate Program (10-week online course), <https://certificates.creativecommons.org>; all certificate resources (CC BY), <https://certificates.creativecommons.org/about/certificate-resources-cc-by>. A print version of the materials is published with the American Library Association: *Creative Commons for Educators and Librarians* (licensed CC BY)
- Open Education Leadership Program (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/open-education-leadership-program>
- Open Educational Resources (OER) and Affordability RoadShow (Association of College & Research Libraries), <https://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows/oer>
- Open Education Research Fellows (Open Education Group), <https://openedgroup.org/fellows>
- Professional Program in Open Education (Kwantlen Polytechnic University), <https://www.kpu.ca/cps/open-education>
- Institute on Open Education (American Association of Colleges and Universities), <https://www.aacu.org/event/institute-open-education>

Learning communities

- Resources from University of Arizona’s OER/Pressbooks Learning Communities (Cheryl Casey and Cheryl Neal):
 - OER/Open Pedagogy Learning Community resources (Spring 2023): https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G_y3LhkrDBqq89cN8_7ZJCyVGoBtQYA?usp=sharing
 - OER/Pressbooks Learning Community resources (Summer 2022): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14Jl61dXbviZtqQNI0zfl1UP414vL0nGX?usp=sharing>
 - OER/Pressbooks Learning Community resources (Spring 2022): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1exOd0AGPahQV2IOdPtF6mmp77drbgEBS?usp=sharing>
 - Pressbooks Learning Community resources (2020): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wSsmpj7d3KLwunx2YqJG59-G7Rmyge4x?usp=sharing>
- “OER Learning Circles for Instructional Improvement” by Karen Pikula (2020 Open Education Network Summit), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDAzdaF1v3w&list=PLWRE6ioG4vdZBJGUCC0XquZi23EHXXLKM&index=5>

Textbook affordability

- “Automatic Textbook Billing: Limited Choice, Uncertain Savings” by Dan Xie, 2024, <https://studentpirgs.org/2024/06/13/automatic-textbook-billing-2>
- “‘Is This an OER?’ Addressing the Complex Relationship between Open and Affordable Course Materials” by Shannon M. Smith and Abbey K. Elder, 2022, <https://isthisoeer.pubpub.org>
- “Fixing the Broken Textbook Market, Third Edition” by Cailyn Nagle and Kaitlyn Vitez, U.S. PIRG Education Fund, 2021 (licensed CC BY), <https://studentpirgs.org/2021/02/24/fixing-the-broken-textbook-market-third-edition>
- “Automatic Textbook Billing: An Offer Students Can’t Refuse?” by Kaitlyn Vitez, U.S. PIRG Education Fund, 2020 (licensed CC BY), <https://uspirg.org/feature/usp/automatic-textbook-billing>
- *The Evolution of Affordable Content Efforts in the Higher Education Environment: Programs, Case Studies, and Examples* ebook, edited by Kristi Jensen and Shane Nackerud, 2018 (licensed CC BY), <https://open.lib.umn.edu/affordablecontent>
- InclusiveAccess.org, <https://www.inclusiveaccess.org>
- SPARC’s Textbook Billing Contract Library, <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/automatic-textbook-billing/contract-library>

Best practices for course materials

- Administrator Checklist for Evaluating Course Materials (Open Oregon Educational Resources), <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bK-wRZp6S2uzVP3f0xi7ver4G3ajFpjwOBbFZJd875o/edit?usp=sharing> (licensed CC BY)
- Faculty Checklist for Evaluating Course Materials (Open Oregon Educational Resources), https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J0oT1xZCciyXtk1I7MB_r9saVDHlpQD7MI5Ep9uCLfM/edit?usp=sharing (licensed CC BY)
- Student Checklist for Evaluating Course Materials (Open Oregon Educational Resources), <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18OLNp9AylWdeyifVL10w82fxmnBwCskJa34Pr46q2SQ/edit?usp=sharing> (licensed CC BY)
- Student-Centered Course Material Adoption: Best Practices (Open Oregon Educational Resources), https://docs.google.com/document/d/13nrZoGS66_t1Sk7EWvJ7EjgcSdiV-EjfOdIcWGfHLCA/edit?usp=sharing (licensed CC BY)

Finding OER

Search tools

- Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (OASIS), <https://oasis.geneseo.edu> (It currently searches open content from 132 different sources. See search widget code at <https://oasis.geneseo.edu/about.php>.)
- Mason OER Metafinder (MOM), <https://mom.gmu.edu> (It searches 20 sources, including HathiTrust, Internet Archive, OER Commons, Project Gutenberg, and the Digital Public Library of America.)

- California Open Online Library for Education (COOL4Ed)'s ISBN search, <https://www.cool4ed.org/findertextbooks> (Scroll down the Cool4Ed web page to find it. Input a commercial textbook's ISBN into the search box. Results provide links to related open textbooks in MERLOT. **This tool is not working as of 7-13-25.**)
- Openverse (formerly Creative Commons' new CC Search for images – now includes free stock photos, images, and audio), <https://wordpress.org/openverse>
- Creative Commons' old CC Search, <https://oldsearch.creativecommons.org>
- Google Advanced Search, https://www.google.com/advanced_search (see Usage Rights filter to filter by Creative Commons license)
- Google Advanced Image Search, https://www.google.com/advanced_image_search (see Usage Rights filter to filter by all Creative Commons licenses)

Repositories and referatories

For higher education

- Open Textbook Library, <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks>, with MARC records for the open textbooks, <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/discovery>
- OpenStax, <https://openstax.org/subjects>
- Pressbooks Directory, <https://pressbooks.directory>
- B.C. Open Collection, <https://collection.bccampus.ca>
- California Open Online Library for Education (COOL4Ed), <https://www.cool4ed.org>
- LibreTexts, <https://libretexts.org>
- Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), <https://www.cali.org/the-elangdell-bookstore>
- Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (COERLL), <https://www.coerll.utexas.edu/coerll>
- Milne Open Textbooks (SUNY), <https://milneopentextbooks.org>
- Math textbooks evaluated and approved by the American Institute of Mathematics, <https://aimath.org/textbooks>

For vocational training

- SkillsCommons, <https://www.skillscommons.org>
- LibreTexts workforce materials, <https://workforce.libretexts.org>

What are other college courses using?

- Cool4Ed's C-ID/Course Materials, <https://www.cool4ed.org/course-materials> (the Faculty Showcase tab also has useful information for other instructors, <https://www.cool4ed.org/faculty-showcase>)
- Open Oregon Resources, <https://openoregon.org/resources>
- OER Commons Hubs, <https://oercommons.org/hubs>, including the OERizona Network Hub, <https://oercommons.org/hubs/oerizona>

For primary & secondary schools

- OpenStax K-12 textbooks, <https://openstax.org/k12>
- OER Commons' K-12 Teaching and Learning Hub, <https://oercommons.org/hubs/k12>

For all ages

- OER Commons, <https://www.oercommons.org> (can use Education Level drop-down menu)
- MERLOT, <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/advSearchMaterials.htm> (can select Audience)

Subject-specific

- OER By Discipline Directory (BCcampus), <https://opentextbc.ca/oerdiscipline>
- Subject-specific OER (CCCOER), <https://www.cccoer.org/learn/find-oer/subject-specific>

Other OER content

- Flickr images, <https://www.flickr.com> (can filter by CC license)
- Pixabay images, <https://pixabay.com> (Pixabay License is similar to CC0 license)
- Wikibooks, https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Project Gutenberg, <https://www.gutenberg.org>
- Smithsonian Open Access, <https://www.si.edu/openaccess>
- NASA space videos and images, <https://www.nasa.gov> (see Multimedia)
- Don't forget about other .gov sites, which often have content in the public domain

Courseware for OER

- OpenStax Technology Partners: <https://openstax.org/partners>
- Commercial Platforms that Utilize OER Assessment Tool (Abbey Elder),
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xDGIKZ7T5fIho7yrTs8Lpu4zpgPbegQn76aY6qEnAUg/edit#gid=941689191>

Open pedagogy

- Open Pedagogy Portal (Open Education Network), <https://oen-openpedportal.pubpub.org>
- Open Pedagogy Toolkit, <https://pressbooks.lib.jmu.edu/openpedagogytoolkit>
- Open Pedagogy Project Road Map (Christina Riehman-Murphy and Bryan McGeary),
<https://oepr roadmap.psu.edu>

- Open pedagogy resources handout (Cheryl Casey), <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x3YjMSJAmqOgFeAhpvylzgsXd-ksffhs/edit?usp=sharing&oui d=101033854505881603516&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Creative Commons

- Creative Commons, <https://creativecommons.org>
- Creative Commons licenses, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses>
- Creative Commons downloads (logos, buttons, and icons), <https://creativecommons.org/about/downloads>
- Creative Commons Certificate Program (10-week online course), <https://certificates.creativecommons.org>; all certificate resources (CC BY), <https://certificates.creativecommons.org/about/certificate-resources-cc-by>. A print version of the materials is published with the American Library Association: [*Creative Commons for Educators and Librarians*](#) (licensed CC BY)
- Creative Commons license compatibility remix chart, https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Wiki/cc_license_compatibility

Copyright & fair use

- Best Practices in Fair Use for Open Educational Resources (American University Washington College of Law), <https://cmsimpact.org/code/open-educational-resources>
- “A Framework for Analyzing any U.S. Copyright Problem,” by Kevin L. Smith, and Lisa Macklin, <https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/entities/publication/e8c6cfe2-4aa2-431d-80fd-0e5aa71b5e41>

Advocacy

- OER Champion Playbook (Lumen Learning), <https://lumenlearning.com/champion-playbook>
- Student Government Toolkit (Student Government Resource Center [PDF]), https://studentgovresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SGRC_Making_Textbooks_Affordable_Toolkit.pdf
- OER Student Advocate Packet (Florida Virtual Campus), <https://flvc.libguides.com/oersap> **[please make a copy of these for your own use]**
- OER Student Advocate Toolkit (California Community College System and CSU System, Michelson 20MM Foundation), <https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/65748/overview>
- “OER Mythbusting” (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/oer-mythbusting>
- OER State Policy Tracker (SPARC), <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/state-policy-tracking>
- OER Advocacy Plan Worksheet (SPARC), https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jv_0JsunR4r501RXdj6qmOtiT4hjDSyR6X1dT9MnLXM/edit#

- Resources for textbook affordability campaigns + textbook cost reports (U.S. Student Public Interest Research Groups), <https://studentpirgs.org/campaigns/sp/make-textbooks-affordable> and <https://studentpirgs.org/sp/our-textbooks-research>
- OER Student Toolkit (BCcampus), <https://opentextbc.ca/studenttoolkit>
- Textbook Heroes (University of Kansas), <https://lib.ku.edu/textbook-heroes>
- Textbook Heroes (University of Texas Arlington), <https://libguides.uta.edu/utacares/heroes>
- OER Stories (Virginia Commonwealth University), <https://blogs.vcu.edu/librariystories/category/why-we-choose-open/oer-stories>
- Action Plan template and examples from other institutions (OEN's Certificate in OER Librarianship), <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Otzx8cb55ZCSnPq5kUf7vp9vfhZJ3ipv1EQZSrHcFY/edit?tab=t.0>

OER in Promotion & Tenure

- *Valuing OER in the Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment Process*, 2024, edited by Andrew McKinney, <https://pressbooks.cuny.edu/tenureandpromotioncasestudies>
- OER in Tenure & Promotion Matrix (DOERS3), <https://www.doers3.org/tenure-and-promotion.html>
- Open Education in Promotion, Tenure, and Faculty Development (Iowa Open Education Action Team), <https://oept.pubpub.org>

Measuring impact

- COUP [Cost, Outcomes, Usage, Perceptions] Framework (Open Education Group), <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/lib-docs/387>
- "Section VII: Collecting and Reporting Data" in *The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers* (Rebus Community), <https://press.rebus.community/oerstarterkitpm/chapter/chapter-21-data-collection-and-strategies-for-oer-programs>

Research

- "The Multi-Year Impact of Canada's First Zero Textbook Cost Initiative," 2025, by Rajiv Jhangiani, Oya Pakkal, and Xiaoyang Xia, <https://openpraxis.org/articles/10.55982/openpraxis.17.2.832>
- "SCOPE of Open Education: A New Framework for Research," 2023, by Virginia Elizabeth Clinton-Lisell, Jasmine Roberts-Crews, and Lindsey Gwozdz, <https://doi.org/10.19173/irrodl.v24i4.7356>
- Rebus Community's "Beyond the Horizon: Broadening Our Understanding of OER Efficacy," 2023, <https://press.rebus.community/beyond-the-horizon>

- Bay View Analytics' "Approaching a New Normal? Educational Resources in U.S. Higher Education, 2024 [PDF]" https://www.bayviewanalytics.com/reports/oer_2024_new_normal.pdf
- Bay View Analytics' 2023 National Course Materials Survey [PDF], https://www.bayviewanalytics.com/reports/2023_student_course_material_affordability.pdf
- Florida Virtual Campus' 2022 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey, <https://dlss.flvc.org/research>
- Bay View Analytics' "Turning Point for Digital Curricula: Educational Resources in U.S. Higher Education, 2022 [PDF]," <https://www.bayviewanalytics.com/reports/turningpointdigitalcurricula.pdf>
- "A Comparison of Academic Outcomes in Courses Taught With Open Educational Resources and Publisher Content," 2021, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3102/0013189X211052563>
- Bay View Analytics' "A Year Apart: Adapting Curricula for a Pandemic, Educational Resources in U.S. K-12 Education, 2021 [PDF]," https://www.bayviewanalytics.com/reports/k-12_oer_ayearapart.pdf
- Bay View Analytics' "Digital Texts in the Time of COVID: Educational Resources in U.S. Higher Education, 2020 [PDF]," <https://www.bayviewanalytics.com/reports/digitaltextsintimeofcovid.pdf>
- Achieving the Dream's 2020 "OER at Scale: The Academic and Economic Outcomes of Achieving the Dream's OER Degree Initiative," <https://www.achievingthedream.org/resource/17993/oer-at-scale-the-academic-and-economic-outcomes-of-achieving-the-dream-s-oer-degree-initiative>
- Regional education compacts' 2020 "Gap Analysis and Environmental Scan: Sharing Observations, Priorities, Opportunities in National OER Landscape," <https://wcet.wiche.edu/resources/report-gap-analysis-and-environmental-scan-sharing-observations-priorities-opportunities-in-national-oer-landscape>
- "The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics" (University of Georgia, 2018 [PDF]), <http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/pdf/IJTLHE3386.pdf>
- Open Education Research Hub, <https://oerhub.net>

Marketing

- Creative Commons handouts and resources, <https://creativecommons.org/about/downloads>
- Open Education Week (in March), <https://www.openeducationweek.org>
- Open Access Week (in October), <http://www.openaccessweek.org>
- Also see resources above under Advocacy

Creative Commons-licensed slide decks

- Nicole Allen, Director of Open Education for SPARC, shares slides from her many presentations and trainings (look in the SlideShare comments for the direct URL to an individual presentation), <https://www.slideshare.net/txtbks>

OER publishing

- “Finding the Right Platform: A Crosswalk of Academy-Owned and Open-Source Digital Publishing Platforms” by Cheryl E. Ball, Corinne Guimont, and Matt Vaughn, <https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:59231>
- Publishing Curriculum is free to everyone in Canvas (Open Education Network), <https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/377173>
- Publishing resources (BCcampus), <https://open.bccampus.ca/create-open-textbooks/support-resources>
- “Authoring Open Textbooks” (Rebus Community and Open Education Network), <https://press.rebus.community/authoropen>
- “The Rebus Guide to Publishing Open Textbooks (So Far)” (Rebus Community), <https://press.rebus.community/the-rebus-guide-to-publishing-open-textbooks>
- “Self-Publishing Guide” (BCcampus), <https://opentextbc.ca/selfpublishguide>
- “Open Textbook Toolkit” (University of Toronto), <https://opentext.onlinelearning.utoronto.ca>

OER customization

- Open Author tool (OER Commons) lets you combine text, pictures, sound, files, and video, <https://www.oercommons.org/authoring-overview>
- “Modifying an Open Textbook: What You Need to Know” (Open Education Network), <https://press.rebus.community/otnmodify>

Accessibility

- “Accessibility Toolkit – 2nd Edition” (BCcampus), <https://opentextbc.ca/accessibilitytoolkit> (includes [Checklist for Accessibility](#))
- Accessible textbooks in the BCcampus Open Textbook Collection, <https://collection.bccampus.ca> (textbooks must meet the [BCcampus OER Accessibility Criteria \[PDF\]](#))
- Accessibility evaluations in the Cool4Ed C-ID/Course Materials (select Discipline and C-ID/Course from drop-down menus to see if individual eText has accessibility evaluation), <https://www.cool4ed.org/course-materials>

Resources for marking free/low-cost course materials in registration system

- “A Course Marking Roadmap: Recommendations to Guide the Development and Implementation of Open and Affordable Course Marking for the Benefit of Students, Faculty, and Institutions [PDF]” (Midwestern Higher Education Compact), https://www.mhec.org/sites/default/files/resources/MHEC_Course_Marking_Roadmap_070824.pdf
- Texas Toolkit for OER Course Markings (a living guide), <https://libguides.uta.edu/txttoolkit>
- Contacts at other universities (and which registration systems they use — may not be up to date), https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Yr_KnJXm1ubfUVinP1kwe6vbEULiqzaCWtCcVCRO2ao/edit?copiedFromTrash#gid=594183565
- How University System of Georgia is doing it, <https://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/resources/banner-attributes>
- “Evaluating Oregon’s Open Educational Resources Designation Requirement” (Open Oregon), <https://openoregon.org/evaluating-oregons-open-educational-resources-designation-requirement>
- Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative’s Statewide Icon for Zero Textbook Cost Designation (under State Strategies tab), <https://flvc.libguides.com/c.php?g=936415&p=7285788>

Tools used for open pedagogy and OER publishing

- Pressbooks (available open source or through an annual plan), <https://pressbooks.com/enterprise>
- Hypothesis (an open-source annotation tool), <https://web.hypothes.is>
- H5P (open-source tool for creating interactive content), <https://h5p.org/content-types-and-applications>
- LibreVerse: LibreTexts’ platform tools, <https://libretexts.org/platforms/studio>
- H5P OER Hub, <https://h5p.org/oer-hub-coming>
- PhET interactive simulations for science and math, <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/filter?sort=alpha&view=grid>
- TablePress (open-source tool for interactive tables), <https://tablepress.org>
- TimelineJS (open-source tool for building interactive timelines), <https://timeline.knightlab.com>
- StoryMapJS (open-source tool for telling stories on the web that highlight the locations of a series of events), <https://storymap.knightlab.com>

Networks

- SPARC Open Education Forum listserv and monthly calls – open to all, <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/sparc-library-oer-forum>.
- Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER), <https://www.cccoer.org>

and email list, <https://www.cccoer.org/community-email>. CCOER also sponsors the Regional Leaders of Open Education Network (RLOE), <https://www.cccoer.org/rloe>

- Open Education Network – offers consortial, institutional, and allied memberships, <https://open.umn.edu/oen>
- OpenStax Institutional Partner Program, <https://openstax.org/institutional-partnership>
- Rebus Community offers a platform for global collaboration on OER creation, <https://rebus.community>
- Creative Commons Global Network, <https://network.creativecommons.org>
- Open Education Global, <https://www.oeglobal.org>
- GO-GN Global OER Graduate Network, <https://go-gn.net>
- State Wide Leaders in OER (list maintained by Rebel Cummings-Sauls), <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x0JE6JXXHtbECJLIWstCh7RIPISICNpG3qBRa-K24DY/edit#gid=0>

OER conferences/summits

- Opened.org maintains a list of conferences at <https://www.opened.org/posts/2025/open-education-conference-list>
- Tips for organizing an OER summit (Lumen Learning), <https://lumenlearning.com/oerevent>