Finding and Using OER in the Classroom: Business and Social Sciences

PR = some or all materials have been peer reviewed
AR = some or all materials have ancillary resources

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Institutional Repositories

Search when: you are looking for textbooks or courseware (educational materials put together in a modular package / kit for instructors that aligns with a particular course).

- OpenCourseware (MIT): courseware for many of MIT's undergraduate and graduate level courses, including assessments, lecture notes, assignments, and video lectures. **AR**
- Galileo (Affordable Learning Georgia): many different types of OER (textbooks, courseware, videos, ancillary resources, worksheets, images) in a number of different subject areas. **AR**
- Orange Grove (Florida Virtual Campus): a collection of textbooks, courseware, videos, and 3D printing models.

Tip: Some of these resources are only available in a PDF or non-modifiable version, making them easy to adopt but more time-consuming to adapt.

Open Repositories

Search when: you are looking for textbooks as well as more discrete learning objects (lesson plans, activities, modules, etc).

- OER Commons (ISKME): textbooks, activities, case studies, lesson plans, and modules for all disciplines. Extensive filtering options and a well-structured search allow for more accurate, targeted results.
- LibreTexts (UC Davis): open textbooks built by faculty, students, and outside experts in a number of different subject areas.
- Boundless Catalogue (Lumen Learning): interdisciplinary courseware that includes textbooks, lecture slides, and ancillary resources for introductory courses. **AR**
- Open Library Portal (eCampusOntario): hundreds of OER available in a number of different subjects. Many textbooks but also has videos, modules, and other OER. **PR AR**

Tip: eCampusOntario has a print on demand service agreement with the University of Waterloo. If a resource is housed in their library, students can request a copy to be printed and shipped to their house for around $30 (includes book and shipping).

Open Referatories

Search when: you want to explore what OER exist in a subject area, as they index items from a number of different resources.

- [MERLOT](): interdisciplinary resource that provides links to learning objects in a myriad of formats. Has extensive filtering options that allow for a highly customized search. **PR**

Tip: Be aware that these can be more challenging to navigate, as their links and information about other sites may have changed/expired. Merlot was originally created to showcase online learning objects, not necessarily open ones, so if you use an object, always check its licensing!

Open Resources

Search when: you are searching for more specialized content or format type in a particular subject area.

Business

- [Open Cases]() (UBC): case studies created by faculty and students that focus on sustainability, public policy, business, and other interdisciplinary areas.
- [Open Case Studies]() (MIT): case studies touching on areas such as strategy, sustainability, operations management, entrepreneurship and more. **AR**
- [Journal of Business Case Studies]() and [Journal of Case Studies and Applications](): open access case studies designed for use in business and economics courses. **AR**

Social Sciences

- [NOBA Project](): modules that can be combined and customized to fit the scope and sequence of many psychology courses. Test banks, powerpoints, and instructor manuals are available for many modules. **AR**
- [Hubert Project]() (UMinnesota): collection of multimedia learning materials for teaching public policy, non-profit management, and public administration. All videos and cases include supplementary discussion guides, teaching notes, and suggested uses. **PR**

Tip: Due to their open license, many of these resources can be combined into a single resource using [UofG's open publishing software]() if you'd like to create a single resource.

Open Textbooks

Search when: you are seeking OER in a textbook format.

- Open Textbook Library (UMinnesota): a large (700+) collection of openly-licensed, peer-reviewed textbooks in all subject areas. PR AR
- Open SUNY Textbooks: textbooks written by SUNY faculty in various subject areas PR
- OpenStax (Rice University): a core collection of open textbooks that support introductory courses in science, math, business, and the social sciences. The OpenStax CNX platform can be searched to find adaptations or ancillary resources for each text. PR AR
- Open Textbook Collection (BCCampus): over 300 textbooks in a wide variety of subject areas. Many texts are provided in editable versions, with options for to able to filter to adopted (used by others) and accessible. PR AR

Tip: Ancillary resources (slide decks, question banks) are sometimes available for textbook OER. To see if any exist for a particular title, you will have to check the individual record.

Aggregators

Search when: you are looking for a jumping off point or for searching across several OER resources quickly.

- Mason Online Metafinder (George Mason U): allows for a real-time, simultaneous search across 22 different sources of OER content for textbooks, images, courseware, and more.
- OASIS (SUNY): searches for open content (textbooks, simulations, modules, courseware, podcasts, learning objects) from over 90 different sources. This context is indexed so searches may not be quite as current as MOM.
- Business Commons and Social and Behavioural Science Commons: open access scholarship (journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, etc.) aggregated from universities and colleges worldwide. PR
- Directory of Open Access Books: aggregator of open access books in a wide range of subject areas.
- InTech Open Books: aggregator of open access books in a wide range of subject areas. Content is written at a more advanced level than textbooks. Suitable for graduate level classes. PR

Tip: The more specific your searches are in these first three tools, the better. Since they're drawing on such a large pool of resources, the advanced search functionality will be helpful. For DOAB and InTech, it will be more effective to browse.

Open Media

Search when: you are seeking out free and openly licensed content to complement your slidedecks, lecture notes, or any OER you may be creating or adapting.

- Creative Commons search: federated (single) search for openly licensed diagrams, artwork, photos, and museum collections.
- Wikimedia Commons: images (photographs, illustrations, diagrams) and videos that are openly licensed or in public domain.
- Google Images Advanced Search: search for openly licensed images by selecting the appropriate choice under "usage rights."
- Pixabay and Unsplash: openly licensed photography and images that can be used and shared freely. Attribution is not necessary but is appreciated.

Tip: While openly licensed content is free for you to reuse, make sure you follow any terms specified by the creator. This may mean crediting the author and linking to the original source.

Additional Resources

- Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning
- OER Evaluation Criteria
- About Creative Commons Licenses and What They Do + Best Practices for Attribution

Helpful Tips

- Always check for licensing, copyright, and terms of use information — this might be in one of the Terms of Use / Copyright and Licensing / FAQ / About sections
- Report your adoption — please let us know if you're using an OER!
- In addition to OER, the library can help with media creation, accessibility, and copyright
- Need more support? Book an online consultation or get in touch at library@uoguelph.ca