Finding and Using OER in the Classroom: Arts and Humanities

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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 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, modules, videos, and 3D printing models. AR
- Open Yale Courses (Yale U): courseware for a variety of introductory level courses, including videos, suggested readings, exams, and problem sets. AR

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. AR
- LibreTexts (UC Davis): open textbooks built by faculty, students, and outside experts in a number of different subject areas. AR
- 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
- Saylor Academy: almost 300 courses that have been created from primarily OER around the web, available to be reused. Also has a list of open textbooks that can be remixed. 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 these tools 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 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 something from there, check its licensing!

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. **AR**
- 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 usually 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 sources of OER content for textbooks, images, courseware, and more. **AR**
- 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. **AR**

- Arts and Humanities 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. **PR**

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

Open Resources

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

General

- InTech Open Books: open access books in a wide range of subject areas. Content tends to be written at a more advanced level than textbooks. Suitable for graduate level classes. **PR**
- Project Gutenberg: Over 60,000 electronic titles available to be searched or browsed. Focus is on older literature (pre-1924) whose copyright has expired.
- Humanities Commons (Modern Language Association): articles, book chapters, syllabi, essays, and more. Can share, discuss, and store research and teaching materials on site.
- Understanding Indigenous Perspectives (UToronto): set of modules designed to support educators and students gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and worldviews.

Departmental Specific Resources

English & Theatre Studies

- Luminarium: an anthology of English writers and writings from the medieval age through the 18th century.
- Open Modernisms (UVictoria): open tool that allows for the building of custom anthologies or coursepacks from out-of-copyright primary materials.
- Great Writers Inspire (UOxford): audio/video lectures, e-texts, and other resources that align with themes (Medieval, Fantasy, Approaches to Literature, Post/colonial Writing, etc.).
- Textbooks: Naming the Unnameable: An Approach to Poetry for New Generations, An Introduction to Technical Theatre, English Literature: Victorians and Moderns.

Fine Arts & Music

- SmartHistory: courses, books, syllabi, and videos on art history. Can be browsed temporally or geographically.

- Art History Teaching Resources: classroom activities, lesson plans, image clusters, videos, and other resources.
- International Music Score Library Project: thousands of scores and recordings available through public domain.
- Digital Collections: Smithsonian, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim, Rijksmuseum.

History

- Canadiana (Canadian Research Knowledge Network): repository for Canadian primary source material, including monographs, serials, and government publications.
- Slave Voyages (Emory U): interactive maps, timelines, animations, and primary source documents about the Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American slave trades.
- Textbooks: American Yawp Textbook and Documentary Companion (primary source materials), World History: Cultures, States, and Societies to 1500, Canadian History: Pre-Confederation and Post-Confederation.

Languages and Literatures

- Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning (U Texas): textbooks, videos, lessons for teaching Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish and other languages. **AR**
- Acceso (U Kansas): a digital learning environment that is designed to assist with both the learning of Spanish and understanding of the varied groups of people who speak Spanish.
- Textbooks: Mythology Unbound: Classical Mythology, Essentials of Linguistics, Greek and Latin Roots: Part 1 (Latin) and Part 2 (Greek).

Philosophy

- Early Modern Philosophy Texts: versions of classical early modern philosophy texts that can be downloaded in a number of different formats. Some titles available as audio books.
- Philosophy Podcasts (UOxford): bite-sized (~10 minute) podcasts that align with topics typically taught in an introductory philosophy course.
- Textbooks: Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind, Fundamental Methods of Logic, Modern Philosophy, The Originals: Classic Readings in Western Philosophy.

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

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.

- 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 license choice under "usage rights."

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

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

Helpful Tips

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