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But I Don't Use a Textbook: Open Educational Resources for All

Dragan Gill
Rhode Island College, dgill@ric.edu

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But I Don’t Use a Textbook: Open Educational Resources for All

Dragan Gill, Assistant Professor
Reference Librarian, Adams Library
March 5, 2019
What are Open Educational Resources?

"teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, 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

"[O]pen educational resources should be freely shared through open licences which facilitate use, revision, translation, improvement and sharing by anyone. Resources should be published in formats that facilitate both use and editing, and that accommodate a diversity of technical platforms. Whenever possible, they should also be available in formats that are accessible to people with disabilities and people who do not yet have access to the Internet."
- Cape Town Open Education Declaration
What are The Public Domain + Open Licenses?

The Public Domain

Commonly things “fall” into the public domain when copyright expires, making many things in the public domain somewhat older.

This year the public domain “re-opened” and materials published in 1924 entered the public domain. Each January 1st, a new year will enter the public domain.

Copyright may also be waived.

CC0 License - more on the next slide.

There are many exceptions and exemptions!

Open Licensing

Creative Commons - The most common OER license type. Creative Commons licenses are added to the author’s held copyright, allowing the creator to decide which rights to retain and which to waive.

Many more open licenses!
More on Creative Commons

There are six main licenses, created by combining rights held.

CC-BY is the “gold standard” for OER.

CC0 is a new licenses, allowing the creator to immediately put something in the public domain.

The licenses are international and interoperable.
The 5Rs Model

**Retain:** Users have the right to make, archive, and own copies of the content;

**Reuse:** Content can be reused in its unaltered form;

**Revise:** Content can be adapted, adjusted, modified or altered;

**Remix:** The original or revised content can be combined with other content to create something new;

**Redistribute:** Copies of the content can be shared with others in its original, revised or remixed form.

By Andria Tieman. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.
Who Makes OER?

Faculty!
And

Colleges, Universities and School Districts,
Research Institutions and Organizations,
Cultural Institutions - museums, archives and libraries,
Government Offices and Departments,
Students.*

*More on student creation of OER later.
Who Reviews OER?

Traditional university and academic publishers,

Users (faculty),

Accessibility experts!

Researchers.
Why are OER Important?

Access & Equity

Open/Open-Enabled Pedagogy
Access & Equity

In addition to textbook costs, online access codes, a one-time-use serial number used to login to online quizzes, tests and homework assignments, are a burden to students.

Student PIRGs’ 2016 report, Access Denied, found:

1. Access codes eliminate no-cost pathways that students rely on.
2. Access codes eliminate low-cost alternatives that students rely on.
3. Access codes create a direct link between the ability to pay and the ability to get good grades.
RIC Example

Textbook + access code

Access code only
Open/Open-Enabled Pedagogy + Academic Freedom

**Open-Enabled Pedagogy**

Edit Wikipedia articles - consider hosting an edit-a-thon.

Revise a course text - create new:
- case study examples,
- glossaries,
- tutorials, and
- study guides.

Create anthologies or bibliographies.

Participate in citizen science + citizen archivist projects.

**Academic Freedom**

5 major publishers hold nearly 90% of the market.

This is not choice.

Adapting and revising proprietary material is prohibited or restricted.

This is not academic freedom.
Citizen Archivist + Science Projects

Citizen Archivists Projects

Sample transcribing projects
- Europeana Transcribe
- Smithsonian Digital Volunteers
- NYPL Labs: Transcribing and geocoding menus
- Building Inspector

Sample collection + curation projects
- Book Traces
- Our Marathon

Citizen Science Projects

Directories and lists
- Citizen Science Association
- Zooniverse

Open science tools
- BOINC
- Bossa
Fundamentally, I don’t want to be part of a movement that is focused on replacing static, overpriced textbooks with static, free textbooks.

- Robin DeRosa (2015)
The Open Anthology of Earlier American Literature

Robin DeRosa

Creative Commons Attribution

READ BOOK
But, What About Fair Use?

Yes! Exercise your right to Fair Use!

But, Fair Use doesn’t easily support:

- Revising, remixing and resharing content,
- Open-enabled pedagogy.
How do I Find OER?

The library maintains an updated list of OER resources:

library.ric.edu/oer

And open access resources, including citizen archivist and science projects:

library.ric.edu/open-collections

Find even more:

library.ric.edu/open
How do I Use OER?

Read the license! Once you know what rights you have,

Continue as you use any other teaching and learning materials:
    In Blackboard - link to the resource or embed it as media
    Provide handouts
    Create a course-pack or anthology and sell it through the bookstore

Guide + Handout:
Using textbooks in Blackboard and printing options on campus
    With some advice for adapting, editing and accessibility
How do I Adapt + Share OER?

Read the license! Check which licenses you can apply to your content!

Once you know what rights you have,

Make sure the content is in a format you can edit
  PDF? Campus computers have Adobe Acrobat DC
  Can’t edit/convert? Contact the author/creator

Add new author and version information + keep older information
  Check the repository for guidelines or general practices
  Be as specific as possible about the changes you made

To share: Start with the repository you found the original in
  Many have a place to share new versions and adaptations
A Note about Accessibility

All teaching and learning materials must be accessible for students with disabilities.

OER can often easily be adapted for students because the technology that allows users to share and edit the content, is often the same technology that works with screen readers and other assistive technology.

The BCcampus Open Education Accessibility Toolkit can help guide you through creating and editing accessibly: https://opentextbc.ca/accessibilitytoolkit/

Contact the Disability Services Center for more help!
More Questions?

Dragan Gill
Reference Librarian, Assistant Professor
James P. Adams Library

✉️ dgill@ric.edu
📞 401-456-8145
📍 Adams 412

Learn more at: http://library.ric.edu/oer
and http://library.ric.edu/open