



## Supporting Faculty Adoption of OER – OER Overview

### What is OER?

The most comprehensive definition of OER available today is provided by the Hewlett Foundation:

*"Open Educational Resources are 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."*

Video: [An Introduction to Open Educational Resources](https://youtu.be/NtJmakm1-zc): <https://youtu.be/NtJmakm1-zc>

### Benefits for Instructors

Not to be underscored, the benefit of adopting OER moves beyond cost savings. The freedom to adapt OER to individual instructional needs carries a powerful argument in favor of adoption as well. Being openly licensed means educators can edit, reorder, and remix OER in ways better suited for their course.

#### OER Benefits for Educators:

- Create and update to improve existing OER.
- Tailor resources to fit your specific course context (e.g., translation, local examples).
- Network and Collaborate with Peers by creating a new open educational resource with a team of your peers.
- Explore user reviews for a more in-depth understanding of the resources available.
- Improve pedagogy by adopting the adage "I teach concepts, not chapters."

#### OER Benefits for Students:

- Lower costs to improve access to education opportunities.
- Enable all students to have equal access to your course materials.
- Provide students with the opportunity to explore course content before enrolling

## **A Little About Open Licensing**

All OER are made available under some form of open license, a set of authorized permissions from the right's holder of work for any users. Creative Commons (CC) licenses, the most popular of these licenses, are copyright licenses allowing others to reuse, adapt, and re-publish content with few or no restrictions. CC licenses allow creators to make known, in plain language, how others can use their works.

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### **How do I know if I can use the material?**

- Look carefully for information surrounding the resource to identify licensing information.
- Review the "About" and "terms of use" pages of the resource's website for permissions and licensing information.
- If no licensing information can be found, the copyright owner is probably retaining all of the exclusive rights.

### **Find additional OER-related information at ASCCC-OERI.org**

References:

[Abbey Elder OER Starter Kit](https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/oerstarterkit/)

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