



ASCCC OERI October 2025 OER Liaison Newsletter

As we transition from September to October, we are entering two new phases of the ZTC Degree Program: colleges will soon be able to add their newly developed OER to COOL4Ed and the selection of an OER platform for the system is expected to be announced in early October. On September 22, there was a webinar that showcased the new interface for uploading resources to COOL4Ed. Some of the questions and concerns that arose during the webinar are summarized in this newsletter. As always, we look forward to seeing you at one of October's many events.

• Fall 2025 OER Liaison Expectations and Tracking •

The OERI supports OERLs so that they may serve as advocates by taking an active role in increasing local OER awareness, adoption, and support. OERLs are faculty who are appointed by their local academic senate. Each college's OERL will be eligible for a yearly stipend of \$1,200. OERLs who complete the specified activities for a given term (fall or spring) will receive \$600 after the term's end upon verification of their completed work. Local senates may appoint more than one OERL, with the duties and stipend divided in a manner deemed appropriate by the senate. All appointments and exceptions must be verified by the local senate president. Your local senate president should direct any OERL updates to the OERI's general email (oeri@asccc.org).

All OERLs are required to either attend a Fall 2025 Kick-Off or [view the Fall 2025 Kick-Off recording](#) prior to attending an OERL Fall 2025 Goal-Setting meeting. All OERLs will need to attend an OERL Fall 2025 Goal-Setting meeting by October 10 and identify their goals for the term by October 17. For a complete list of the OER Liaison expectations, please see the [Fall 2025 OERL Expectations Document](#) on the OERI website. As the term progresses, all OER Liaisons will need to document their Fall 2025 OER Liaison "attendance" activities using the [Fall 2025 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet](#) (tinyurl.com/OERL-2024F).

- [OER Liaison Kick-off Presentation Slides](#)
- [OER Liaison Kick-off for New Liaisons Recording](#)

• OERI Project Management Course •

The OERI Project Management Course begins on Monday, September 29 and end on Friday, October 31. For those of you enrolled in the course, join the office hours on select Fridays from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm to learn and bring your questions regarding the OERI Project Management Course.

[Register for the OERI Project Management Course Office Hours in October](#)
[Register for the OERI Project Management Course Office Hours in November](#)
[Register for the OERI Project Management Course Office Hours in December](#)

• ASCCC Fall 2025 Plenary and OERI Resolutions •

The ASCCC's Annual Fall Plenary Session will be held November 6–8, 2025 in La Jolla. The Pre-Area Meeting Resolutions Packet is scheduled to be distributed to field on September 26, 2025. An OERI resolution that is included in the packet relates to the new title 5 regulation 5, [§54221 Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials](#) and asserts that the intent of the regulation is not merely first-day access, but first-day no-cost access. OERI does anticipate bringing additional resolutions to Area Meetings. If you have an idea for a resolution, [please let the OERI know](#). Interesting in attending an Area Meeting? Access “Area Meetings” on the [ASCCC Fall 2025 Fall Plenary Session page](#).

• COOL4Ed and You •

Even if you are not directly involved in your college's ZTC efforts, it is likely that you have some connection to the OER work that faculty at your college are doing. Below you will find questions, answers, and information related to some of the issues that were raised at a webinar on using COOL4Ed on September 22, 2025. New OER are not being added to the existing COOL4Ed collection, instead a new interface has been developed for the purpose of gathering the products associated with the current ZTC program. It is expected that access instructions will be sent to each college's designated email and the new ZTC COOL4Ed site will be available on September 24.

Why is there a requirement that OER developed with ZTC funds be licensed CC BY?

Although the ASCCC has sought to change this requirement, specifically advocating for allowing CC BY-NC, the requirement is codified in the Procedures and Standards of the Board of Governors and efforts to change it were not successful. The document requires that “Any published materials produced under an agreement or sub-agreement using public funds must be subject to a Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY)” ([Procedures and Standards of the Board of Governors, December 2022 Edition, p. 40](#)). The ASCCC was successful in advocating for the clarification that CC BY should not be used when it conflicts with other licenses in a resource. In other words, if you are creating a derivative of a work with a different license, such as CC BY-NC or CC BY-NC-SA, applying the CC BY license to your

derivative would not be permissible. While the Board of Governors requires that work produced with ZTC funds must be licensed CC BY, that license may not be imposed on the work of another if it is not compatible. If you have questions about Creative Commons and your licensing options, please consider attending one of the ZTC OER Open Licensing Office Hours. These monthly office hours are held on the second Friday of each month at noon. Registration is not required. [Access the 12:00 pm October 10 OER Open Licensing Office Hour.](#)

Why is C-ID referenced in the course data submitted to COOL4Ed and not Common Course Numbering (CCN)?

CCN is a new requirement for the California Community Colleges curriculum that is expanding and changing regularly as new CCN templates are developed. In contrast, C-ID is well-established and stable. COOL4Ed is not intended to be updated on a regular basis. However, CCN can – and should – be included as a resource tag. This information will be particularly useful when the course being supported with OER is one that has a CCN but does not have a C-ID.

Why is there a separate process for sharing minor modifications of existing OER? And how do we determine when to use this process?

To ensure the usefulness of COOL4Ed, minor modifications of existing OER (adaptations and remixes) should generally not be added to COOL4Ed. A resource should be added to COOL4Ed when 30–50% of the content (by volume or pedagogical impact) is new, restructured, or substantially changed. This is a guideline and subject to local interpretation. OER that are adapted or remixed with minor changes can be reported to the OERI with an overview of the changes made instead of being added to COOL4Ed. Such resources will be made available by the OERI and the OERI will report this information to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. [Access the OER Project Update Submission Form](#) to report your ZTC-funded adapted and remixed OER. **This is an optional alternative to adding resources to COOL4Ed that you can use if appropriate.** If a bulk upload process is desired and/or you are uncertain as to whether to include your OER in COOL4Ed via the process referenced here, [please contact the OERI for assistance \(oeri@asccc.org\)](#). Additional guidance is forthcoming. The information fields specified for submission to COOL4Ed will suffice for submission to OERI. Sharing a modified OER with the OERI will fulfill the reporting requirement for these resources.

• OER Liaison Events – October 2025 •

While these events are intended for OERLs, please invite colleagues to attend any OERL event that would be of broader interest.

Monday, October 6, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Beyond Static PDFs: Making Open Educational Resources (OER) Interactive and Engaging in Canvas

OER are more than just free digital textbooks in PDF. When used creatively, they can transform how students engage with course content. In this webinar, we will explore how to go beyond static OER PDFs and show how to bring OER to life inside Canvas. [Register for Beyond Static PDFs: Making Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Interactive and Engaging in Canvas](#)

Friday, October 10, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Defining Return On Investment for Open Educational Resources (OER) Adoption: A Collaborative Conversation

As OER adoption expands, the need for a consistent method of measuring return on investment (ROI) becomes increasingly important. But how exactly do we calculate the impact—financial, academic, and more—of something that is free and adaptable? Join us for an informal, interactive conversation exploring how we might define a standard approach to ROI for Zero Textbook Cost initiatives. This session isn't about presenting a finished model but rather, it's about opening the door to shared ideas, challenges, and practical insights.

[Register for Defining Return On Investment for Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Adoption: A Collaborative Conversation](#)

Monday, October 20, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) in Practice: Campus OER/Zero-Textbook-Cost (ZTC) Program Spotlights from Across the Spectrum

Join us for a candid and practical monthly webinar series that illustrates how colleges are building, adapting, and sustaining their OER and ZTC programs. Rather than focusing solely on “best practices,” this series will explore actual practices and program building. Each session will feature 2-4 colleges sharing how their OER/ZTC efforts are structured - from formal committees and taskforces to grassroots faculty-led initiatives. We'll hear directly from OER leads and practitioners about what's working, what's evolving, and how they're navigating the challenges and opportunities on their campuses.

[Register for OER in Practice](#)

Tuesday, October 28, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Part-Time OERs - This One's for You: A Conversation Space for Part-Time Liaisons (OERL Conversation)

Are you an OER liaison who is also a part time faculty member? Join this conversation to share time management strategies, effective ways to advocate for OER within your role, and some of the advantages or pitfalls of being part-time and an OERL.

[Register for Part-Time OERs – This One's for You](#)

• End of OERL-Specific Newsletter •

The rest of this newsletter contains content for a general audience, and you are expected to share it with your colleagues, as appropriate. We've provided a sample message that you can use, but feel free to adapt it to your college culture. Please note that as an OERL, you are automatically signed up for our general newsletter. The

general newsletter can easily be forwarded on with your personalized message added as an introduction.

• **Sample Cover Message to Send to Your College** •

Hello! As the Open Educational Resources Liaison for our college, it is my pleasure to share communications from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI). Please read on to learn about upcoming events and opportunities that are free and open to all.

If I can assist you as you consider OER for your classes or answer any OER related questions, please let me know.

• **Upcoming and New OER** •

Faculty across the California Community Colleges system are always developing new and remixing existing OER. The OERI is pleased to share several new resources developed by faculty for the following courses:

- Introduction to Digital Photography
- Arabic Level 1
- Arabic Level 2
- Arabic Level 3
- American Sign Language 2
- Women and Gender in Visual Art

Resource details can be found on the [Newly Available OER page on our website](#). This page will be updated as more projects are completed.

Are you aware of any resources that have recently been completed or that are currently under development? Please [provide your project information](#) so we can share it with the field!

• **College Public-Facing Information – ZTC Degree and Certificate Pathways** •

The OERI has compiled all publicly listed Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) degree and certificate pathways across the system into a filterable and searchable table. [Access the College Public-Facing Information – ZTC Degree and Certificate Pathways page](#) to learn what pathways have been converted to ZTC.

Please note, the information in the table was pulled using only publicly available data on college websites and may not be comprehensive. [Please submit any updates or feedback to us via email](#) (leri@asccc.org).

• **OERI Discipline Leads Wanted** •

The OERI is recruiting Discipline Leads for 2025 – 2026. Discipline Leads receive a stipend of \$600 per term for completing their assigned tasks and are also eligible to receive a stipend for taking the OERI's courses. [Read more about the Discipline Lead role](#) and the process for applying.

The OERI encourages faculty in all disciplines to apply. While we are presently recruiting Leads for the following disciplines, we are always happy to consider other disciplines as well.

- Addiction Studies
- Agriculture
- Asian American Studies
- Counseling
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Health
- Humanities
- Native American Studies
- Nutrition
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Social Justice Studies

• ASCCC AI Events and Resources •

NEW! The OERI is pleased to share [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Attribution and Citations for Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#). This resource was developed by Liz Encarnacion, the ASCCC OERI Artificial Intelligence Lead and is licensed [CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0](#). It provides guidance on the proper attribution and citation of AI-generated content for OER authors, content creators, remixers, and users. While the FAQ is a "living document," meant to be updated as the usage and understanding of generative AI continues to advance, it currently addresses various scenarios, including suggestions on how to cite AI-generated images and text, provides clarification on copyright implications for AI-created works as per the U.S. Copyright Office, offers advice on managing inaccuracies, and emphasizes the importance of transparency and responsible integration of AI in academic and creative endeavors.

Open Educational Resources (OER) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Office Hours

Drop in to chat and ask questions about OER and AI. Topics can include attribution and citation questions, ethical considerations, hypothetical and practical scenarios, or discipline specific issues - nothing is too small or too large! Join colleagues to ask questions, get feedback, or brainstorm ways that AI can be a helpful tool in your OER work. These office hours will be held from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm on every Friday of

October except for October 24th.

[Register for the October 3, 10, 17 and 31 OER and AI Office Hours](#)

• OERI Accessibility Office Hours •

Drop in to chat and ask questions about accessibility in OER. Join colleagues to ask questions and get feedback on how to make your OER more accessible. These office hours will be held from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm on Tuesdays for the month of October.

[Meeting Link for the October 7, 14, 21 and 28 OERI Accessibility Office Hours](#)

• ZTC Open Licensing Office Hours •

When developing ZTC pathways using OER, you might encounter questions about open licensing such as Creative Commons licenses. During this *OER Licensing Open Office Hour*, pose those questions to Jonathan Poritz, veteran faculty member, multiple-OER author, and experienced facilitator of the Creative Commons certificate program.

Bring your questions or just drop by to learn from the informal conversation about all-things-open licensing! Open Licensing Office Hours are held on the 2nd Friday of the month at 12:00 pm. [Access the 12:00 pm October 10 OER Open Licensing Office Hour.](#)

• OERI Events – October OERI Friday Forums •

During the Fall 2025 academic term, the OERI Friday Forums will be held from 10:30 am – 11:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. All Friday Forum webinars are recorded and archived. The ASCCC OERI will provide automated captioning for all webinars. If you would like to request live human closed-captioning for any of our offerings, [please contact us by e-mail](#) at least 10 business days in advance.

OERI Friday Forums are intended for a diverse audience. Please share with your colleagues. We hope you all will join us!

Friday, October 3, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti- Racism (IDEA): Keeping the Faith and Advancing the Work

Join us to discuss how we can move forward with equity and inclusion work in the changing landscape of higher education. This forum is a space for those interested in sharing, brainstorming and considering how we can continue our IDEA efforts with Open Educational Resources (OER) and at our colleges in general. This won't be a session that has all the answers, but it will be a safe space to ask all the questions.

[Register for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti- Racism \(IDEA\): Keeping the Faith and Advancing the Work](#)

Friday, October 17, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Practices, Platforms, and Pitfalls: Video as Open Educational Resources (OER)

Including instructional videos can be an important way to humanize online learning.

Creating video to share as part of OER course materials is not the same as video for a

specific context, however. In this discussion, we will discuss the challenges and choices creators of OER instructional video may face. Bring your questions and your wisdom!
[Register for Practices, Platforms, and Pitfalls: Video as OER](#)

• OERI Discipline Lead Events •

The [OERI Discipline Leads](#) regularly host conversations and webinars to share resources, identify needs, and build community. These events are intended for discipline faculty and for those who have an interest in the discipline as supporters or advocates. Webinars will be recorded and archived. A “conversation” or an office hour are informal discussions and recordings may be shared upon approval of the presenter. The ASCCC OERI will provide automated captioning for all webinars. If you would like to request live human closed-captioning for any of our offerings, [please contact us by e-mail](#) at least 10 business days in advance.

Wednesday, October 1, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Anthropology Open Educational Resources (OER): What's New and What's Needed

In this conversation, one of the co-editors of Traces (a new archaeology OER) will be joining us to discuss their work and final preparations for publication. In addition, we will discuss other new and forthcoming anthropology OER and identify gaps in the discipline collection.

[Register for Anthropology OER: What's New and What's Needed](#)

Wednesday, October 8, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Exploring Open Educational Resources (OER) in Hospitality Management: Best Practices and Needs

Join colleagues for a discussion about the existing OER options for Hospitality Management, what is currently being used, and what key needs still exist. We will also discuss barriers that prevent the adoption of OER and what resources need to be developed. Please bring your questions and ideas to contribute to this important conversation.

[Register for Exploring OER in Hospitality Management: Best Practices and Needs](#)

Wednesday, October 8, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Journalism and Newspaper Production Open Educational Resources (OER)

News production classes are an important component of the Journalism Associate Degree for Transfer, but the available OER may not be sufficient to support student success. Join journalism colleagues to discuss the OER that are currently used for news production classes and explore what resources may be needed to fill in any gaps. Bring your questions and suggestions and we will investigate the possibilities.

[Register for Journalism and Newspaper Production Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#)

Thursday, October 9, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

American Government and Open Educational Resources (OER): Next Steps

Please join us for a webinar on OER and American Government and Politics. We will

explore what OER has been developed as well as discuss plans to develop additional OER, including modules on methods and congressional action.

[Register for American Government and OER: Next Steps](#)

Thursday, October 9, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Exploring Open Educational Resources (OER) for ENGL C1000

Curious about how OER can support the new ENGL C1000 template? This conversation will give English faculty space to share ideas, explore existing OER texts, and identify gaps. Together, we'll consider how common course numbering shapes resource adoption and what tools might ease the transition. Bring your questions and experiences; your insights will help guide next steps in making ENGL C1000 truly zero-textbook-cost.

[Register for Exploring Open Educational Resources \(OER\) for ENGL C1000](#)

Friday, October 10, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Exploring Alternatives to TestOut

TestOut provides a broad suite of resources in IT, networking, operating systems, and cybersecurity. However, its high cost and proprietary format can create barriers for both faculty and students. This conversation will focus on how colleges can develop robust alternatives. Can TestOut become an optional recommendation rather than a requirement? Let's discuss!

[Register for Exploring Alternatives to TestOut](#)

Friday, October 17, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context: A Globally Inclusive Approach

Andréa Pantoja Garvey will share her labor of love, [Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context: A Globally Inclusive Approach](#), a rare lifespan development textbook with a strong global and intercultural perspective. In our conversation with Andrea, we will discuss how she created an openly-licensed psychology text that focuses on addressing students' needs and the challenges she encountered along the way. In our discussion, we'll also explore platforms for hosting and updating, opportunities for collaboration, and finding resources to update existing OER.

[Register for Lifespan Human Development in Sociocultural Context: A Globally Inclusive Approach](#)

Friday, October 24, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sin Fronteras: Inclusive Open Educational Resources (OER) in Spanish

Today more than ever there is an urgency to embrace language teaching practices that are both inclusive and equitable. This interactive presentation will examine the outcomes of our efforts to foster diverse pedagogical and curricular approaches to enhance student learning, encourage critical-thinking, and ultimately promote and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion. More specifically, presenters will address the challenges and opportunities arising from fostering inclusivity in Spanish language instruction, offer strategies to include non-binary Spanish and voseo in the classroom, and share OER aimed at making Spanish language instruction affordable and accessible to effectively accommodate diverse learners and create equitable learning

environments. This webinar is co-sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

[Register for Sin Fronteras: Inclusive OER in Spanish](#)

Thursday, October 30, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Re-examine ADAPT to Create Chemistry Problems

In this webinar, we will demonstrate how to use ADAPT's molecular sketcher tool to create chemistry problems where students can build and manipulate molecular structures directly within their assignments. Join us to learn more about this tool and bring your questions.

[Register for Re-examine ADAPT to Create Chemistry Problems](#)

Mathematics and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours

The OERI is pleased to offer a series of Math and OER office hours throughout the Fall term. These office hours will serve as a question and answer session where attendees bring in their math OER needs, requests, and questions. Attendees can also use this space to receive guidance and ask questions pertaining to MyOpenMath.

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Wednesday, October 8, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Thursday, October 23, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Friday, November 7, 10:30 am – 11:30 am](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Tuesday, November 18, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Monday, December 8, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm](#)