

Open Educational Resources 101

University of Colorado-Denver



This presentation and slide deck "Open Educational Resources 101: University of Colorado-Denver" by Sara Satkowiak, Ronica Rooks, and Deborah Bumbie-Chi is an adaption of "Open Educational Resources 101: Auraria Library" by Sara Satkowiak and is shared under a CC BY 4.0 Int License, except where otherwise indicated.

“At the heart of the open educational resources movement is the simple and powerful idea that the world’s knowledge is a public good.”

-Hewlett Foundation

Today's Topics

- ❖ What are Open Educational Resources (OERs)?
- ❖ Why OERs?
- ❖ OERs and our campus community
- ❖ Examples of OERs created/used at CU-Denver, CU System, & larger Auraria Campus
- ❖ Funding opportunities
- ❖ Q & A

What is OER?

Open Educational Resources (OERs) 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**.

- Hewlett Foundation

What is OER?

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The term “open educational resource” means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is offered freely to users in at least one form and that either resides in the public domain or has been released under an open copyright license that allows for its **free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with attribution**.

- Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

The 5 'Rs' of OERs

Retain

- The right to make, own, and control copies of the content (e.g., download, duplicate, store, and manage).
- Keep access to the materials after learning ends.

Reuse

The right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)

- Make and own copies

Revise

- The right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)

Remix

- The right to combine the original or revised content with other material to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
- Combine multiple OERs together to create new content

Redistribute

- The right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend).

Not all free resources are OER

OERs are not only freely available, but more importantly, they are openly-licensed and can be modified and redistributed by users.

This means:

- The author(s) provide permission for anyone to use their work as long as they adhere to the conditions of the license (**openly-licensed**)
- OER must be easily accessible online at no cost. A 'true' OER is **free to access** unless the resource is printed and must be purchased for the cost of materials.
- OER must be editable, allowing for adaptation and customization. This requires an open license that permits repurposing and remixing of the content (**modifiable**).

Examples of Non-OER

- Internet resources with no paywall :
 - freely available but not openly-licensed and not modifiable
- Subscription-based Library collections:
 - freely available to a specified group of users*, but not openly-licensed and not modifiable
- Open Access articles & monographs:
 - Freely available, openly-licensed but not modifiable

Some Related Terms

Open Pedagogy

- Teaching and learning practices where openness is enacted within all aspects of instructional practice; including the design of learning outcomes, the selection of teaching resources, and the planning of activities and assessment.... (UNESCO)
- The set of pedagogical practices that include engaging students in content creation and making learning accessible is known as open pedagogy... (The OER Starter Toolkit)

Open Access

- Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles combined with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment...(SPARC)

Zero-Textbook Cost (ZTC)

- Postsecondary credential or degree program that does not require a student to pay textbook costs, but requires the student to use only open educational resources or other resources that are entirely free to the student.
(<https://cccs.libguides.com/c.php?g=1310288>)

These are courses that make use of OER and other proprietary learning materials. These learning materials may be library resources, or resources we just don't have the rights to share.

OER VS. ZTC

COMPARING OPEN PARADIGMS IN USE AT RRCC



VS

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

Free teaching, learning, and research resources that carry legal permission for open use, typically through the application of *Creative Commons* licenses.

PURPOSE

Provide free learning resources to students using materials that are adaptable by educators to better fit learning outcomes, DEI goals, and course scopes.

OPENNESS

OER utilizes the 5Rs of openness: retain, redistribute, reuse, remix, revise – so resources can be modified in many various ways.

SUSTAINABILITY

OER should be shared on open platforms (e.g., OER Commons, LOR) and stored/retained for sustainability. Utilize Bookstore and Library collaboration.

ACCESSIBILITY

OER should be accessible and not behind paywalls or require subscriptions or personal information to access (images may be an exception).



ZERO TEXTBOOK COST (ZTC)

Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) means students don't have to purchase a textbook for their course. This does not include other learning materials (e.g., lab kit, microscope, software, etc.).

PURPOSE

Reduce costs to the student. ZTC courses ensure that students do not have to spend money on textbooks for specific courses.



OPENNESS

ZTC uses a mix of resources, many still under full copyright, and is not focused on implementing the 5Rs.



SUSTAINABILITY

ZTC courses can require an adequate amount of combined digitized resources, so tracking tools for each resource are helpful for sustainability. Utilize Library collaboration.



ACCESSIBILITY

ZTC will often utilize library resources within institutional databases, requiring student credentials.

OER vs. OA vs. Library Materials

OER

- Public domain
- Creative Commons license or similar
- 5Rs apply
- Free to students, everyone

Open Access (OA)

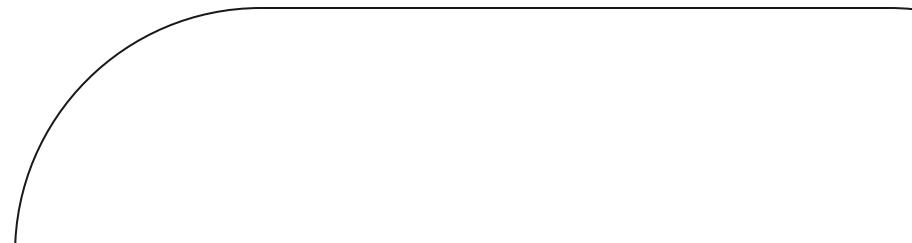
- Includes OA Journals
- Cannot be revised or remixed
- Can be used with OER
- Often referred to as Zero Textbook Cost
- No additional cost to students

Library Materials

- Resources in traditional publishing models, but library purchases
- Can be used with OA and/or OER
- Often referred to as Zero Textbook Cost
- Cannot be shared beyond authorized users
- No additional cost to students



Why OER?



2020 #RealCollege Survey found:

Nationally, College Students:

34%

Food
insecure

48%

Housing
insecure

14%

Homeless

Student Impact of OER

- Decreases the overall cost of attendance
- Financial aid often doesn't cover course materials cost
- Student success increases when textbook cost is not a factor, particularly when it comes to withdrawal rates (Clinton & Kahn, 2019, Colvard et. al, 2018, Nusbaum et. al., 2020).
- Student access

Equity and Social Justice

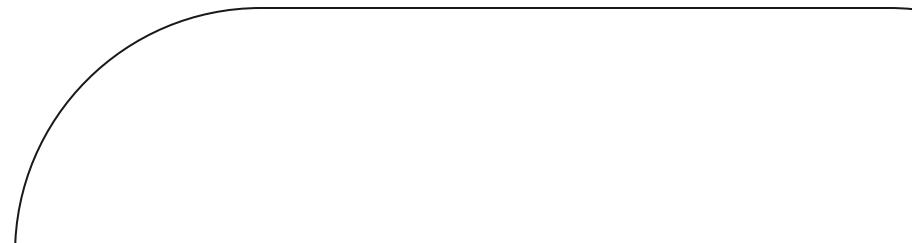
- Student opportunity & economic equity
 - Addresses redistributive, cognitive, and representational justice concerns (Lambert 2018)
 - DOERS3 Equity Rubric and Blueprint
- Access to the publishing and knowledge dissemination structure beyond traditional proprietary avenues

OER and Instructors

- Collaborative
 - Diversity of viewpoints and contributions
- Tailor course materials to learning outcomes
- Control updating
- Students choose OER classes over non-OER
 - Course marking 2025



- **OER & CU-Denver
Community**



University of Colorado-Denver Students

- UC-Denver is a Hispanic-serving and AAPI-serving institution
- 1st generation & transfer students are a large part of incoming classes
 - Colvard study finds that OER use decreases student withdrawal rates for traditionally underserved populations
- Support students where they are
- Student is just one identity of many!

University of Colorado-Denver Instructors

- Course marking for OER & ZTC classes
- Resources available for instructors around OER
 - TIPS
 - Auraria Library
 - UC-D OER Committee
 - Funding

■ OER Funding



External and Internal Funding

- Individual, Small groups to Institutional Z degrees, Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE; \$10,000 to \$100,000; due mid-September each year)
- DEI grants from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, CU Denver (up to \$10,000; 9/1-12/1/24 and 1/15-4/15/24)
- Teaching Innovation Grants from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, CU Denver (up to \$1,000; open 2xs a year)

CDHE-Funded Faculty: Dr. Jiayue Cecilia Wu, Asst. Professor in CAM

- Her OER grant (\$5,000) enhances the Digital Music Techniques course within the Recording Arts (RA) and Master of Science in Recording Arts (MSRA) programs. It developed open-source materials, including textbook content, video tutorials, and pedagogical tools, to eliminate student costs while making advanced audio engineering technologies accessible to all.
- The project resulted in national and international recognition, securing awards from the College Music Society, ATMI, and NAMM, and several peer-reviewed publications and presentations at major music conferences.
- This year she is working on an OER textbook and self-authored teaching materials for a zero-cost Sound Design and Modular Synth course.

Learn More

- Free CU Denver TIPS OER self-paced course:
<https://www.ucdenver.edu/tips/tips/resources/self-service/solo-courses>
- Creative Commons Certificate for educators course (\$500 for 10-wk online course):
<https://certificates.creativecommons.org/>
- Online OER Faculty Training through MSUD:
<https://www.msudenver.edu/innovative-lifelong-learning/professional-development/oer-faculty/> (\$134)



Learn More

- Iowa State OER Starter Kit:
<https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/oerstarterkit/>
- Would you be interested in a future panel workshop of CDHE-funded projects?
- Would you be interested in reviewing an OER textbook if a stipend was provided?

