



Image: by Sunshine Connelly

Workshop to get started with Open Educational Resources

What are Open Educational Resources?

The term "open educational resources" was first adopted at UNESCO's 2002 Forum on the Impact of Open Courseware for Higher Education in Developing Countries funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Open educational resources are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use and under some licenses to re-mix, improve and redistribute.

Open educational resources include:

- **Learning content:** full courses, course materials, content modules, learning objects, collections, and journals.
- **Tools:** Software to support the creation, delivery, use and improvement of open learning content including searching and organization of content, content and learning management systems, content development tools, and on-line learning communities.
- **Implementation resources:** Intellectual property licenses to promote open publishing of materials, design-principles, and localization of content.

How can I license my work?

Creative Commons

What are the terms of a Creative Commons license?

The key terms of the core suite of Creative Commons licenses are: Attribution, NonCommercial, NoDerivatives and ShareAlike. These license elements are succinctly described as follows:

- **Attribution.** You let people copy, distribute, display, perform, and remix your copyrighted work, as long as they give you credit the way you request. All CC licenses contain this property.
- **NonCommercial.** You let people copy, distribute, display, perform, and remix your work for non-commercial purposes only. If they want to use your work for commercial purposes, they must contact you for permission.
- **ShareAlike.** You let people create remixes and derivative works based on your creative work, as long as they only distribute them under the same Creative Commons license that your original work was published under.
- **NoDerivatives.** You let people copy, distribute, display, and perform only verbatim copies of your work — not make derivative works based on it. If they want to alter, transform, build upon, or remix your work, they must contact you for permission.



Find out more about Creative Commons

Creative Commons (ccLearn)

ccLearn is a division of Creative Commons dedicated to realizing the full potential of the internet to support open learning and open educational resources

<http://learn.creativecommons.org/>

Creative Commons add in for Microsoft Office

This add-in enables you to embed Creative Commons licenses directly into (2003 & XP) Word, PowerPoint, and Excel documents.

<http://blogs.howtogeek.com/mysticgeek/2008/08/23/easily-embed-creative-commons-licenses-to-protect-office-2007-documents/>

Ahrash Bissell

Ahrash Bissell of the Creative Commons speaks at NDLR Symposium (2008) at Trinity College Dublin

http://asx.heanet.ie/ndlr/symposium2008/03_AhrashNBissell.asx

Creative Commons FAQ

A very useful Frequently Asked Questions listing that will clarify any questions you have.

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Frequently_Asked_Questions

Creative Commons Videos

Watch any of the comprehensive series of short videos to find out what more about Creative Commons

Lawrence Lessig Explains Creative Commons licensing

Lawrence Lessig is a Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. For much of his career, Professor Lessig focused on law and technology, especially as it affects copyright. In this video he explains why Creative Commons licenses are important.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWxyx5iYdvl>

Where can I find open educational resources?

Sample OER initiatives

MIT Open Courseware

Provides free, searchable access to MIT's course materials for educators, students, and self-learners around the world.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Economics/index.htm>

Rice University, Connexions

A space for collaboratively developing, freely sharing, and rapidly publishing scholarly content on the Web to provide educational materials for everyone — from children to college students to professionals.

<http://cnx.rice.edu/>

OpenLearn Open University

Provides free access to the Open University's course materials.

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/>

Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services

<http://www.iriss.org.uk/openlx/>

University of Southampton EdShare

An institutional resource for collaboration and sharing of materials used in teaching and learning

<http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/>

NUI Galway Research Repository

Newly launched NUI Galway Research Repository to collect and make freely available scholarly communication, including peer-reviewed articles, working papers and conference papers created by NUI, Galway researchers.

<http://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/>

National Digital learning Repository (NDLR)

Fully available from December 2009

<http://www.ndlr.ie/>

Carnegie Mellon University, Open Learning Initiative (OLI)

A collection of openly available and free online courses and course materials that enact instruction for an entire course in an online format.

<http://www.cmu.edu/oli/>

Tufts University OpenCourseWare

Supports and advances education by making high-quality content freely available on the Web for learners and faculty across the nation and the world.

<http://ocw.tufts.edu/>

Commonwealth of Learning, Learning Object Repository (Worldwide)

An online database of learning content compiled by searching across a number of open content repositories.

<http://www.col.org/lor>

BBC

Provides a variety of education materials in many disciplines.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Gateway to Educational Materials

Provides educators with quick and easy access to thousands of educational resources found on various federal, state, university, nonprofit, and commercial Internet sites.

<http://thegateway.org/>

Wikis

WikiEducator:

This aims to be a central site for the collaborative development of OERs, research on the use of OERs, and planning of educational projects that involve OERs. WikiEducator is a relatively new project and has not published the same amount of content as other repositories have so far. It is set-up as a Wiki, which allows keyword search and organises its resources by level of education.

<http://www.wikieducator.org>

Wikipedia

Free online encyclopedia to which anyone can make edits or additions.

<http://www.wikipedia.org/>

Wikiversity

Wikiversity is a Wikimedia Foundation project devoted to learning resources, learning projects, and research for use in all levels, types, and styles of education from pre-school to university, including professional training and informal learning. Teachers, students, and researchers are invited to join in creating open educational resources and collaborative learning communities.

<http://www.wikiversity.org/>

Search Engines

Search Creative Commons:

Creative Commons offers a number of specialised search engines (including Google, Yahoo, Flickr, etc.), which only give results that are licensed under creative commons licenses. <http://search.creativecommons.org/>

Custom Google Search from Leigh Blackall

<http://tinyurl.com/freemediasearch> (note: You can also select "Advanced Search" in google to filter on usage rights)

Open Journals and Books

Project Gutenberg

<http://www.gutenberg.org>

Public Library of Science

<http://www.plos.org>

Directory of Open Access Journals

<http://www.doaj.org/>

Open Access Medical Journal from the Public Library of Science

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/>

Community College Open Textbook Project

<http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/>

Other Useful Links

Sample Resource

An example of a rich multimedia resource that has been made open access

http://d-mis-web.ana.bris.ac.uk/cetl/tutorials/video_tutorials.html

IREL-Open Project

A federated open access repository service for Ireland

<http://www.irel-open.ie/>

OpenCourseWare Consortium

An OpenCourseWare is a free and open digital publication of high quality educational materials, organized as courses. The

OpenCourseWare Consortium is a collaboration of more than 200 higher education institutions and associated organizations from around the world creating a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model.

<http://ocwconsortium.org/about/>

Open Educational Resources Commons

Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education created OER Commons, in 2007, to provide support for and build a knowledge base around the use and reuse of open educational resources (OER). OER Commons has forged alliances with over 120 major content partners to provide a single point of access through which educators and learners can search across collections to access over 24,000 items, find and provide descriptive information about each resource, and retrieve the ones they need. By being "open," these resources are publicly available for all to use, and principally through Creative Commons licensing, many thousands are legally available for repurposing, modifying and improving.

<http://www.oercommons.org/>

Open Learning Network

An international research hub for aggregating, sharing debating and improving Open Educational Resources. Starting from early 2009 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is supporting The Open University to work with Carnegie Mellon University to develop OLnet. The aim of OLnet is to tackle gathering evidence and methods about how we can research and understand ways to learn in a more open world, particularly linked to Open Educational Resources (OER) but also looking at other influences.

<http://olnet.org/>

Cloudworks: Share & Discuss Learning & Teaching ideas

Cloudworks is a place to share, find and discuss learning and teaching ideas and experiences

<http://cloudworks.open.ac.uk/>

OU Learning Design Initiative

The aim is to develop and implement a methodology for learning design composed of tools, practice and other innovation that both builds upon, and contributes to, existing academic and practitioner research. The project was initially funded through strategic development funded from the Open University and has recently secured additionally funded from the JISC through the new Curriculum Design programme, to look at extending the work to date and cascading findings, tools and resources to other institutions. The team are based in the Institute of Educational Technology, in the UK.

<http://ouldi.open.ac.uk/>

Open Course Examples

George Siemens & Stephen Downes

12 week online course "Connectivism & Connective Knowledge"

<http://lrc.umanitoba.ca/connectivism/?p=182>

George Siemens & Martin Weller

From "Courses to Discourse" (2009) course

<http://lrc.umanitoba.ca/connectivism/?p=182>

More relevant publications on OER

OER Handbook for Educators

http://wikieducator.org/OER_Handbook/educator_version_one

Free MIT web book

Opening Up Education: The Collective Advancement of Education through Open Technology, Open Content, and Open Knowledge / Edited by Toru Iiyoshi and M. S. Vijay Kumar.

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?tttype=2&tid=11309&mode=toc>

JISC-funded report on learning resource sharing business models, including OERs:

Good Intentions: Improving the Evidence Base in Support of Sharing Learning Materials / Authors: Lou McGill, Sarah Currier, Peter Douglas, Charles Duncan <http://ie-repository.jisc.ac.uk/265/>

JISC CETIS report on OERs:

Open Educational Resources : Opportunities and Challenges for Higher Education / Authors: Li Yuan; Sheila MacNeill; Wilbert Kraan, JISC CETIS http://wiki.cetis.ac.uk/images/0/0b/OER_Briefing_Paper.pdf

UNESCO OER Toolkit

http://oerwiki.iiep-unesco.org/index.php?title=UNESCO_OER_Toolkit

Special Edition of the Journal of Interactive Media in Education (JIME) on Researching Open Content

<http://jime.open.ac.uk/2008>

Blue Skies Thinking for design and OER, Gráinne Conole, The Open University, UK,

Keynote: Technology and Learning: Defining Quality in Research, Theory and Practice, Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society Symposium, 2009, University of Limerick, 11th May 2009

<http://e4innovation.com/?m=200905>

Review of OER

Atkins, Dan E., John Seely Brown, and Allen L. Hammond, "A Review of the Open Educational Resources (OER) Movement: Achievements, challenges, and new opportunities," Report to The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, February 2007. Available at. http://learn.creativecommons.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/areviewoftheopeneducationalresourcesoermovement_bloglink.pdf

Advantages of Being Open – from MIT

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/HowTo/MakingTheCase.htm>

Stephen Downes Presentation on OER (Sept 2008)

Presentation on Open Educational Resources (OER) at Brandon Hall. Talks about licenses, content models, funding models, some major initiatives, and more

http://www.slideshare.net/Downes/open-educational-resources-presentation?src=related_normal&rel=8400

David Wiley

Wiley, D. A. (2006). On the Sustainability of Open Educational Resource Initiatives in Higher Education

<http://opencontent.org/docs/oecd-report-wiley-fall-2006.pdf>

Higher Education Authority Policy: The Open Access Repository of Published Research

<http://www.hea.ie/en/node/1154>

William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

Useful reports on initiatives and OER initiatives globally, along with supporting resources.

<http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education-program/open-educational-resources>

Tapscott, Don, and Anthony D. Williams, Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything, Portfolio Press, 2006.

News blog of topics relating to OER Topics

<http://openeducationnews.org/>

Annual OER Conference (Next event: August 12 - 14, 2009 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)

<http://openedconference.org/>



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