Education   OER Teaching Tools

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OER Workshops for Learning (OWLs)

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Welcome to our OER Workshops! This document here will be the information you need over the 3 days.

OER Glossary

This glossary will cover terms that will be used throughout the workshops. You can refer to this for an easy definition or refresher.

5 R's of OER	To be OER, a source must be able to apply all of these: Redistribute, Remix, Retain, Reuse, Revise.
Affordable Materials	Materials that have a cost, but are already paid for. An example would be journals found in a database that are made accessible through tuition/fees.
Copyleft	A play on "copyright," an arrangement for the creator to freely distribute their work as long as those who modify the work follow the same distribution condition
Copyright	The right given to the owner of creative or informative work on how to distribute or make copies of their work. This only applies for a certain length of time.
CreativeCommons	A non-profit organization that releases Creative Common Licenses
CreativeCommons Licenses	Licenses that indicate which rights creators waive and retain while allowing others to copy, distribute, and make some uses of their work
Fair Use	Permits certain use, such as sections, of copyrighted items without first acquiring permission from the copyright holder
Free	See "Open Access"

Institutional Repository	An archive or database that houses, preserves, and distributes digital copies of works published by members of a research institution.
Low-Cost	Materials for a class that cost under $40 total.
Open Access	Materials that are free to access and use, but none-- or at least not all-- of the "5 R's of OER" can be applied.
Open Educational Resources (OER)	Openly licensed text, media, and other digital assets that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessing as well as for research purposes; can be modified and redistributed without permission.
Peer Review	Rigorous process for review in which multiple experts evaluate a work; a form of self-regulation for quality.
Public Domain	Creative works that are not protected by copyright or other intellectual property rights. This could be due to rights having been expired, forfeited, or being inapplicable
Redistribute	Ability to share copies of the original work, or copies of any revised, remixed, and any other modified works
Remix	Combine original or revised work to create a new work
Retain	Ability to keep copies of the original work, or copies of any revised, remixed, and any other modified works after they have been distributed
Reuse	Ability to use any original or unaltered work
Revise	Adapt, adjust, or modify any existing work to best suit the needs for which the work will be used.
Zero-Cost	No cost to the user - covers both Open Access/Free and OER

What is OER?

- Open Educational Resources
- UNESCO coined term "Open Educational Resources" in 2002
  "Open Educational Resources (OER) 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."
- Criteria for OER
  - OER is free to use
  - These are the 5 R's:

5 R's of OER

Retain
Ability to keep copies of the original work, or copies of any revised, remixed, and any other modified works after they have been distributed

Reuse
Ability to use any original or unaltered work

Revise
Adapt, adjust, or modify any existing work to best suit the needs for which the work will be used.

Remix
Combine original or revised work to create a new work

Redistribute
Ability to share copies of the original work, or copies of any revised, remixed, and any other modified works

  - Licensed to not be *static*

The nature of OER is that it is constantly changing to meet different users' needs
Needs can be: better aligning course materials to the learning objectives; availability of course and supplemental materials; accommodating students with ADA-recognized disabilities and/or learning difficulties; make the material more engaging via graphics or another type of medium
- Doesn't have to be textbooks
Can be different media, such as syllabi, lecture notes, videos, podcasts, images, assessments, etc.

Let's look at different types of zero-cost materials

	OER	Free	Affordable	Low-Cost
Cost to Obtain	Free	Free	Included in fees already being paid	Less than a commercial learning material
Customization	Can be customized/modified without further permission from creator	Restrictions may or may not exist to limit modifications by other users	No further modifications can be made by other users	No further modifications can be made by other users
Distribution	Can be distributed anywhere for free, even after modifications	Redistribution may be allowed or limited by creator	Redistribution permissions are limited	Redistribution is prohibited
Examples	* An OER textbook	* An Open Access article	*Articles/books from the library in course reserves	*E-book textbook rental
	* Lecture slides	*A book in the public domain	*Material licensed by the library	*Inclusive access deals

- Remember: Just because something is free to use does **NOT** mean it's OER. OER needs to be licensed in a way that it can be modified (use the 5 R's).
- For UTEP's purposes, Low-Cost means **total** course materials equal $40 or less.

Adopt, Adapt, Create: Incorporating OER in the Classroom

Adopt
Finding quality OER and using it as-is in the classroom

Adapt
Modifying OER to best suit needs of class

Create
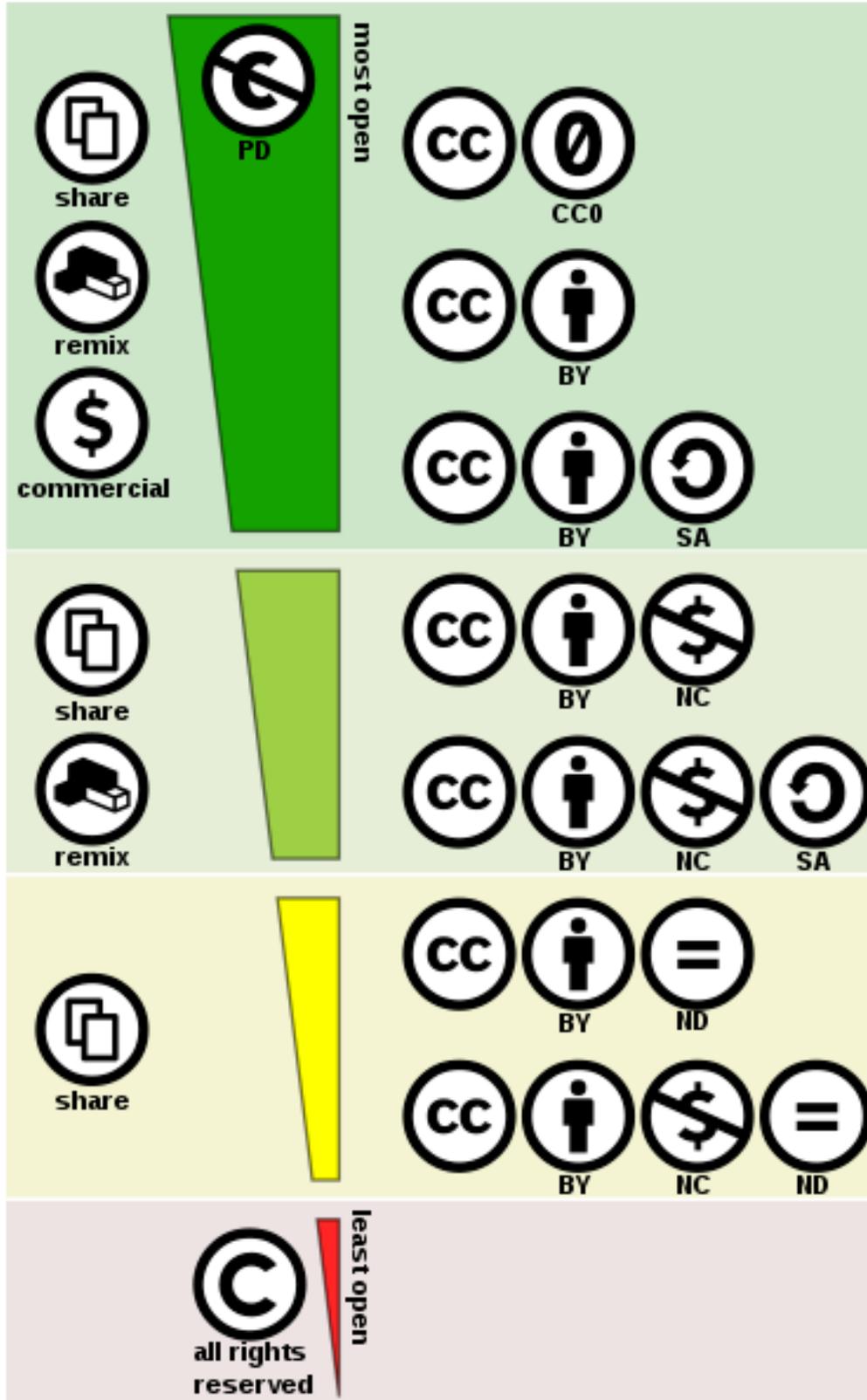Make new OER to best suit needs/if no other OER exists

- While all three take effort to incorporate, this shows the least intensive to the most intensive.
- Most common will likely be Adapting OER
- Creating OER costs time and money (to the creator, not the user)

Understanding Creative Commons Licenses

Attribution
BY — Others can copy, distribute, display, perform and remix your work if they credit your name as requested by you

No Derivative Works
ND — Others can only copy, distribute, display or perform verbatim copies of your work

Share Alike
SA — Others can distribute your work only under a license identical to the one you have chosen for your work

Non-Commercial
NC — Others can copy, distribute, display, perform or remix your work but for non-commercial purposes only.

"How to License Poster" by Creative Commons is licensed under CC BY 4.0

- These four symbols/rights can be combined to make a Creative Commons (CC) License.
- There are two other rights: CC0 and PD
  - CC0 waives all rights to works - this is important when looking at differing copyright laws in different jurisdictions.
  - PD stands for Public Domain. This usually applies to works that did have copyright

"Creative Commons License Spectrum" by Shaddim (CC BY)

- This chart shows how the CC rights can be combined, and what that means for sharing work
- PD and CC0 are the most open licenses in terms of sharing; traditional copyrights are the least open.

Texas says "Howdy" to OER

- In 2017, Texas passed SB810 which states
  - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) can create a grant program to encourage more educators to use OER in the classroom
  - It requires colleges and universities to provide a system which allows students to search for and identify courses that don't require students to purchase extra materials
  - It ordered that a feasibility study be conducted on a state-wide OER repository
- There is also HB1027 in the works
  - Effective 9/1/21, each course will need to have a list or a link to a list that includes information about all required course material, to include if the material is OER

What does this mean for UTEP?

- In September 2019, President Wilson declares OER Aspirational Goals
  - You can read the goals here
- Starting Fall 2021, course markings will be added to let students search for low- and zero-cost material classes in Goldmine
- OER being highlighted as a possible avenue for course materials
- UTEP Library hired it's very own OER Librarian - Tessy!

Textbooks, Costs, and UTEP

- Textbooks are crazy expensive - prices have increased 187.5% in the last decade
  - That's 3 times the rate of inflation
- Three most expensive textbooks for core classes in Fall 2020
  - COMM 1302: $243.95
  - MATH 1411: $218.25
  - STAT 1380: $209.00
- 66% of students forgo purchasing textbooks because of cost
- Fall 2020 textbook costs for core classes, painstakingly compiled by Les, can be found here
  - Approximate total cost: **$4,036,513.54**

OER to Save the Day

- OER is free to obtain and use - which can lead to huge savings
  - As an example, the 2019 TeachTech cohort saved students approximately $200,000
    - Most only **Adopted** OER - few adapted or created!
- Evaluating how to incorporate OER can help instructors look closely at the learning objectives and how course materials relate
  - Course materials should be selected to match the learning objectives, not the other way around
  - Evaluation could include criteria for cost and first-day accessibility
  - Commercial materials might still be used, but not as heavily relied upon or supplemented by zero-cost materials
- First day access for all students enrolled
  - When students opt to not purchase materials because of cost, they could fall behind, increasing Drop, Fail, Withdraw (DFW) rates
  - When materials are made freely accessible on the first day of classes, DFW rates due to lack of materials go down
- Materials can be modified or changed to accommodate local student population's needs
  - We can make materials bilingual or more accessible to students who speak English as a second language
  - As a leader for Hispanic-servingness in higher education, UTEP can promote materials written by and for Hispanics
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) can be at the forefront when adapting material

Speaking of DEI….

Accessibility and OER

- How great would it be to adapt learning materials to meet the needs of learners with physical and learning disabilities? Two examples:
  - Podcasts for those with visual impairments and audio learners
  - Learning materials that can be adapted to special fonts to help readers with dyslexia
- Socio-economic barriers are no longer a factor when it comes to accessing OER
  - Underrepresented groups in commercial publishing include women; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); members of the LGBTQ community; and people who identify as having at least one disability
  - Publishing in OER repositories have fewer if any barriers when publishing

Finding and Evaluating OER

- For the OWLs, we are going to focus on these OER repositories:
  - [Merlot](#)
  - [OER Commons](#)
  - [Creative Commons](#) - images
  - [OpenStax](#) - textbooks
- There are plenty of other repositories for OER, and you can find a list of more on the [Find OER](#) page of the OER guide.
- Merlot, OER Commons, and OpenStax all have peer-review content and filters when searching
- Librarians (specifically, Tessy) can help instructors search the OER repositories, find applicable OER, and evaluate it as well.

I strongly recommend clicking into the repositories and getting familiar with the search features.

Common Objections to OER

- OER and other zero-cost material is hard to find
  - That's why we have librarians, specifically an OER Librarian! We're here to help
- If anyone can publish OER, I'm not sure I trust the quality
  - Reputable repositories exist that check for quality and have peer-reviewed processes
  - Librarians can also check for quality
- My commercial textbooks come with supplemental slides, quizzes, and other materials.
  - OER isn't just textbooks, you can find similar supplemental materials that are zero-cost as well
- I can't find anything that will work for my classes as-is
  - We can try adapting OER to better fit your classroom needs, either through revising or remixing
  - We can use a combination of OER, Free, and affordable materials - which is ultimately still zero-cost for the students

Helpful Links

UTEP Library OER Guide:
https://libguides.utep.edu/oer

Angela's OER Bites:
OER Bites chomp chomp

UTEP Textbook Costs Fall 2020
UTEP Core Courses Textbook Expenditures

Texas Learn OER:
https://sites.google.com/austincc.edu/texaslearnoer/module-1-introduction-to-this-course

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) OER Policy State-by-State:
https://sparcopen.org/our-work/state-policy-tracking/

Texas SB-810 - OER Legislation:
https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/SB00810F.pdf

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO):
https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer

Goals of the UTEP OER Initiative
https://www.utep.edu/oer/about/oer_at_utep.html