OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOK & CONTENT SOLUTIONS

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Finding Open Educational Resource (OER) Images for Teaching

Open education resources are not just about free or low-cost resources, but open sources that you as the faculty member can take the content and adapt/adjust/modify to fit your specific needs. OER resources are designed to be flexible and changeable, as long as you are willing to make your adapted resources available under the same license as the original resource.

Benefits of OER for Faculty

OERs allow you to supplement your lectures and learning materials with content that is openly available. By sharing your content with others, you are maximizing your impact and the visibility of your scholarly work with a global audience.

Getting Help

If you want to know about additional resources, or are not finding what you need, please contact Stacy Zemke (szemke@ou.edu) or your subject matter librarian in the University Libraries, and we will help to expand your search. Visit libraries.ou.edu/liaisons to identify your subject matter librarian.

Getting Started

Creative Commons Licensing: Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools. To find content that is CC licensed:

- http://creativecommons.org/licenses/: This page explains the different CC licenses. "CC By" is designed to be the most open licensing option, "CC By-NC-ND" the most restrictive.
- http://creativecommons.org/education: This page talks in general about OERs, what they are and how to find them.
- http://search.creativecommons.org/: This page allows you to modify searching on some specific repository sites (not just OER repositories) to return CC licensed results

OER Tools   Visit guides.ou.edu/oer for more info

OER Repositories

Connexions (cnx.org)
Offers both authoring/hosting and supports individual collections kept on the site. Best for individual lessons/single concepts and for open textbooks. Not strong on images.

Merlot (merlot.org)
Offers a link library to connect people to open content. Uses evaluation, peer review, and communities to evaluate and improve content.

OER Commons (oercommons.org)
Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education, and it tends to be a bit more K-12 focused. Results can be filtered by post-secondary.

Open Textbooks

College Open Textbooks (collegeopentextbooks.org)
Clearinghouse of open textbooks

OpenStax College (openstaxcollege.org)
The books here are also available at COT and CNX. They have 5 books and are growing. These books are written from the ground up to be open.

Flatworld Knowledge catalog.flatworldknowledge.com
There is a charge for students to use their books, but it is minimal and you still can customize as a faculty member. Prices for students range from $40 to $200 (depending on media, online or color print)

Sources for CC Images (Always check the actual images for CC licensing or user permissions.)

Google Image Search google.com/ advanced_image_search
Searches the whole web so you will find results from Flickr, Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, and general web pages. Take advantage of the advanced image search, to refine your searching and to select a CC licensing you want.

Bing Image Search (bing.com)
Searches the whole web so you will find results from Flickr, Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, general web pages. Take advantage of the advanced image search, to refine your searching and to select a CC licensing you want. Once you type in your initial Bing search – you will have a list of filters on the top of the page – select the licensing pull-down filter to the CC licensing you want.

Europena (europeana.eu/portal)
A gateway to European cultural assets, through this one site you can search for artworks, cultural items, archival collections from participating institutions all around Europe. The search will then take you to the participating site to view the items. Some are CC licensed and some are not, but you can use the filters on the left side to select only CC materials to refine your searches.

Wikimedia Commons (commons.wikimedia.org)
The Commons houses all of the media that is used in Wikipedia, as well as additional public domain and freely-licensed educational media. The Commons does not provide an advanced search, everything on the site is either public domain or CC licensed. You will have to check with each individual item you find to view the licensing.