Research Guide

Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources are free, free, free!

This guide provides you with open educational resources that are free to use, adapt, share, and reuse.

What are OERs?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are openly licensed, freely available online teaching and learning materials including videos, textbooks, derivatives, learning modules and more. They can be modified and redistributed by users. They can include any type of educational resource, from syllabi to full courses. They widen people's access to information and see this video to know why Open Education Matters.
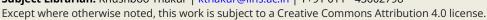

What is not an OER?

If a resource is not free or openly licensed, it cannot be described as an OER, e.g., most materials accessed through the library subscriptions require special permission to use and therefore cannot be considered "open." The table below explains the difference between OER and other resources often misattributed as OER.

Material Type	Openly Licenced	Freely Available	Modifiable
Open educational resources	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free online resources under all rights reserved copyright	No	Yes	No
Materials available through the university library	No	Yes	No
Open access articles and monographs	Yes	Yes	Maybe

Note: Although some materials are free to access for a library's users, that does not mean that they are free to access for everyone (including the library). Similarly, while some open access resources are made available under a copyright licence that enables modification, this is not always the case.

Benefits of Using OER

- OER provides access to a wide variety of materials.
- OER, like open textbooks, can decrease the cost of education because they are either free or of low cost.
- They also represent an opportunity to have one's materials improved by allowing them to be modified by other faculty around the world. New sections and chapters can be added, which can enhance the original work.
- OER also allows faculty to create material that is customised for their classes.

5Rs of OER

- **Retain** – The right to make, own, and control copies of the content.
- **Reuse** – The right to use the content in a wide range of ways.
- **Revise** – The right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself.
- **Remix** – The right to combine the original or revised content with other material to create something new.
- **Redistribute** – The right to share copies of the original content, revisions, or remixes with others.

Ask a Librarian

Library FAQs
Library resources
Library Exhibitions

Types of OER

OpenCourseWare: A free and open digital publication of high quality college- and university-level educational materials.

Learning modules: Course materials organised in a logical and sequential order.

Open textbooks: Open textbooks are typically authored by faculty and published on the web with the support of universities or new commercial companies.

Streaming video: Streaming video is content sent in compressed form online and displayed by the viewer in real time.

Open access journals: Free, immediate, online availability of research articles combined with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment.

Recorded tutorials: Video or screencast recordings, typically of a subject expert presenting information and ideas or giving a demonstration.

Interactive tutorials: A structured collection of navigable web pages that can contain any combination of text, images, audio, video, screencasts, self test questions and other interactive activities.

Courses and eLearning

- **SWAYAM** - A national MOOC platform, offers over 2,150 courses taught by close to 1,300 instructors from over 135 Indian universities to build skills and competencies of learners in India.
- **NPTEL** - A MOOC repository of over 420 web courses and 510 video courses freely available, mainly in the engineering, basic sciences, humanities and social sciences subjects.
- **eGyanKosh** - A national digital repository of digital learning resources developed by IGNOU for over 200 graduate programmes.
- **OER Commons** - OER Commons is a public digital library of over 50,000 open educational resources that is free to use.
- **FOSSEE** - Free\Libre and Open Source Software for Education (FLOSS), promotes the use of free software in academia and research.
- **Academic Earth** - A website which offers free online video courses and academic lectures from the world's top universities, covering around 50 primary subject disciplines ranging from Arts and Design, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, English, etc.
- **Coursera** - Coursera partners with more than 200 leading universities and companies to bring 7,000+ flexible, affordable, job-relevant online learning to individuals and organisations worldwide.
- **edX** - An open online course provider with 3000+ courses, 15,000 instructors and 160 partner institutions.

- **MERLOT** - A resource to access 97,381 free learning and support materials and content creation tools with more than 4000 member institutions.
- **MIT OpenCourseWare** - MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content with around 2500 courses.
- **OpenLearn** - The home of free learning from the open university with nearly 1000 free courses across eight different subject areas.

Open Textbooks

- **LibreTexts** - A nonprofit online educational resource project. It provides open access to its content on its website. It has 13 library disciplines, 400 texts in 154 courses, making it one of the largest and most visited online educational resources.
- **OpenStax** - A nonprofit charitable corporation that publishes openly licensed books, develops and improves research-based courseware and establishes partnerships with educational resource companies while providing books for 35 introductory level college courses.
- **Open Textbook Library** - Open textbooks are licensed by authors and publishers to freely use, adapt, download, edit and distribute the resources of around 50 subject areas at no cost.
- **BCcampus OpenEd** - A self-publishing guide of BC campus for teaching, learning and research resources, that allow others to use, distribute, keep or make changes to guides of around 20 subject areas and 387 open textbooks.

- **Milne Open Textbooks** - Provides access to the course materials from 2400 courses at MIT. Previously known as Open SUNY Textbooks, Milne Open Textbooks is an initiative of the State University of New York libraries (SUNY).

Textbook platforms

- **DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books)** - A platform that provides access to 49,335 academic peer-reviewed books from 691 publishers and helps users to find trusted open access book publishers.
- **HathiTrust Digital Library**
  HathiTrust is a partnership of academic and research institutions, offering a current collection of around 7200 of titles digitised from libraries around the world.
- **JSTOR** - It provides access to more than 12 million journal articles, books, images, and primary sources in 75 disciplines and 7,000+ open access ebooks from 90 publishers, free to libraries and users.
- **Open Textbooks for Tertiary Institutions** - A sustainable system which provides quality open textbooks for adoption and adaptation at minimal cost for education for all. The system will serve students and teachers at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
- **Project Gutenberg** - An online library of free eBooks which offers over 53,000 free ebooks.

Images and Media

- **Internet Archive** - An American digital library that holds over 34 million books and texts, 7.4 million movies, videos and TV shows, 797,000 software programs, 13,991,923 audio files, 4.1 million images, and 640 billion web pages.
- **Creative Commons image search** - A nonprofit organisation that helps overcome legal obstacles to the sharing of knowledge and creativity.
- **Openverse** - A search engine for openly licensed media. The Openverse team builds the catalogue, API, and the front-end application as well as integrations between Openverse and WordPress.
- **Flickr** - Online photo management and sharing application with tens of billions of photos to help people make their photos available to the people who matter to them and to get photos and video into and out of the system in as many ways as we can.
- **Google Image Search** - A service provided by Google that allows a user to search for images using an image as the starting point, rather than a written or spoken search query.
- **Open Clip Art Library** - An online media repository of free-content vector clip art. The project hosts over 160,000 free graphics and has billed itself as the largest community of artists making the best free original clipart for you to use for any purpose.
- **Open Photo Project** - It uses photography, audio and text to present the beautiful, complex lives of consensually non-monogamous people.

- **Pixabay** - A vibrant community of creatives, sharing copyright free images, videos and music.
- **Wikimedia Commons: Images** - A media repository of free-use images. It is a project of the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **CSIRO science image** - An image library specialising in science and nature images with a collection of over 4318 images and videos. It is presented by CSIRO, Australia's major science research organisation.
- **NASA Image Galleries** - It consolidates imagery and videos in one searchable location. Users can download content in multiple sizes and resolutions and see the metadata associated with images, including EXIF/camera data on many images.
- **Open-i: Biomedical image search engine** - An experimental multimedia search engine that retrieves and displays structured MEDLINE citations augmented by image-related text and concepts and linked to images based on image features.

Videos

- **Khan Academy** - It offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalised learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace.
- **Ted Talks** - An organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talk videos (18 minutes or less).
- **Vimeo** - A video sharing platform that includes features such as live-streaming and customisation.

- **Wikimedia Commons: Videos** - A media repository of free-to-use videos.
- **YouTube** - A video sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment and upload their own videos. The video service can be accessed on PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones.

Theses and Dissertations

- **Shodhganga** - A platform with 343268 theses, 8352 synopses and and 43 fellowship reports for research students to upload their Ph.D. theses and make them openly accessible to the entire scholarly community.
- **e-Thesis Online Service: British Library** - An e-theses online service provided by the British Library to search over 500,000 doctoral theses. You can download them instantly or order a scanned copy quickly and easily.
- **Open Access Theses and Dissertations** - A resource for finding open access graduate theses and dissertations published around the world. Metadata comes from over 1100 colleges, universities, and research institutions. OATD currently indexes 6,149,879 theses and dissertations.
- **Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)** - An international organisation dedicated to promoting the adoption, creation, use, dissemination, and preservation of electronic theses and dissertations.
- **ProQuest Theses & Dissertations** - It offers authentic, diverse perspectives spanning books, video, scholarly

journals, primary sources and more. It contains over 2,000 full-text news titles.

- **CORE** - It is the world's largest aggregator of open access research papers from repositories and journals. It is a not-for-profit service dedicated to the open access mission.

Databases

- **OpenDocs** - A digital repository of research on international development.
- **OECD iLibrary** - It contains thousands of e-books, chapters, tables and graphs, papers, articles, summaries, indicators, databases. Now, it also has podcasts that are discoverable by theme, country or content type. Every year, around 500 new titles are published via OECD iLibrary. The OECD iLibrary contains these Content items as in February 2022: 16,850 ebook titles, 92,240 chapters, 281,270 tables and graphs, 86 podcasts, 2,570 articles, 6,390 multilingual summaries, 7,800 working papers and policy responses, 7 billion data points across 44 databases.
- **The Lens** - The Lens ingests, cleans, aggregates, normalises and serves over 225+ million scholarly works, 127+ million global patent records, and more than 370+ million patent sequences, with rich metadata including the people and institutions that generate this knowledge and the linkages between them, drawn from diverse data sources.
- **Dimensions** - Dimensions covers millions of research publications connected by more than 1.5 billion citations, supporting grants, datasets, clinical trials, patents, 124m

publications from 87k journals, 49 preprint servers and over 1m books and policy documents.

- **VIDWAN** - VIDWAN is the premier database of profiles of scientists / researchers and other faculty members working at leading academic institutions and other R&D organisations involved in teaching and research in India with around 8 subject categories.
- **Indian Research Information Network System** - IRINS is web-based Research Information Management (RIM) service developed by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre around 8 categories, over 1 million of publications and 10 million of citations.
- **National Science Digital Library** - One of the largest Depositories in the World that is a state-of-the-art infrastructure that handles most of the securities held and settled in dematerialised form in the Indian capital market.

Quality of Contents

- Relevance: This research guide will help different library users, researchers and faculty members by providing information about the various open educational resources available worldwide containing a sea of information and knowledge.

- Accuracy of the information: The team has put in their best efforts to collect as accurate information as possible. Thorough research and studies were done in order to compile this research guide.