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INTRODUCTION

“Open education practices (OEP) use collaborative methods and frameworks to develop content, curriculum, assessment, research, policies, projects, budgets and so on. The word “open” means unrestricted online access, radical transparency, maximum reusability and participatory collaboration. Open education practices do not “simply refer to access to freely available content; it includes non-restrictive terms and conditions and transparent development processes.” (La Trobe University Open Education Working Group, Discussion Paper on Open Education, 2013). OEP encompasses Open software, open education resources, using open platforms for assessment and other educational purposes.

BENEFITS OF OEP

The development of OEP can improve educational outcomes by

- encouraging learner-centred pedagogies
- reducing the cost to students increasing enrolment and completion rates
- engaging students in lifelong learning
- giving people more informed choices through transparency
- closing the gap between formal and informal learning
- facilitating collaboration between staff and institutions on development of learning and teaching resources
- Improving the quality of learning and teaching resources through collaboration and peer review

(La Trobe University Open Education Working Group, Discussion Paper on Open Education, 2013)

OER

“Open Educational Resources (OER), are educational materials which are licensed in ways that provide permissions for individuals and institutions to reuse, adapt and modify the materials for their own use. OER can, and do, include full courses, textbooks, streaming videos, exams, software, and any other materials or techniques supporting learning.” (OER Foundation, 2011, in Bossu, Brown & Bull, 2012, p.124).

USING OER RESOURCES

Using open educational resources can reduce the cost of learning materials and costs in sourcing and using educational content and resources without the need to negotiate, enter into and maintain contracts with third-party providers.
LIBRARY

The University Library can provide guidance on finding, choosing and using OER and Hybrid OER content for your teaching and online and blended learning needs. Your faculty librarian can work with you and suggest content options to best fit the topic, learning outcomes, quality, permanency and use requirements.

In addition to the many websites outlined in this guide, the University Library provides access to many quality online resources from reputable publishers across most disciplines that can incorporated seamlessly into your teaching, including:

- 1000s of [streamed online video](#) programs with accompanying transcripts that can be clipped and embedded where required using [Kanopy](#), [Alexander Street Press](#), [Nursing Education in Video](#) and more.
- [Streamed online news and current affairs](#) programs using [TVNews](#)
- [E-Books](#) with multi-user licencing
- [E-journals](#), including full text journal articles and newspaper articles
- [Images](#)

Online learning objects developed by the Library and Student Learning staff to foster key academic skills including finding relevant journal articles, evaluating resources for reliability and relevancy, referencing, subject resource guides, assignment calculator and more.

Manage and store your digitized reading list content including resource links, streamed videos, electronic articles, e-books and more in one place using [Reading lists@La Trobe](#). Subject lists can be arranged using simple drag and drop functionality organised by topics or weekly readings. Notes can also be added to introduce, guide or highlight critical information.

For further information or advice contact your Faculty Librarian @ [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/library/contact-us](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/library/contact-us)

WEB

There are a number of websites that host open content and courseware. You need to consider copyright, accessibility and permanency of the content.

Images

You can use [Google](#) to search for Creative Commons content, look for pictures at [Flickr](#), albums at [Jamendo](#), and general media at [spinxpress](#). The [Wikimedia Commons](#), the multimedia repository of [Wikipedia](#), is a core user of Creative Commons licenses as well. (Source: [http://creativecommons.org/licenses/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/)) Other Image databases:

- [Metropolitan Museum of Art Makes Public (400K High-Res Images)](#)
- [Database of free online images from the British Museum](#)
- [J Paul Getty Museum Open Content Program](#)
- [Getty Images(35 Million images for non commercial purpose)](#)
- [CSIRO Images](#)
• Culturally Authentic Picture Lexicon
• Morguefile
• Vads visual art images
• Wellcome Images
• Pixabay
• Dreamtime
• Freedigitalphotos

Multimedia & Content sites
There are range of sites offering free and open movies, documentaries and other video content that can be incorporated into your teaching: SLOW TV, Open Culture, SnagFilms, Internet Archive, TED Talks, ABC Archives, 197 YouTube Channels you should know about, iTunes U, Academic Earth, University of Washington Streaming Video Guide, The Age TV, Radio Lab, This American Life, ACMI Generator, Vimeo.

Always check the Terms and Conditions section on the website to ensure you are using the material within licence requirements.

OER Repositories

• OER Creative Commons
• Khan Academy
• National Science Digital Library
• Merlot
• Open Educational Resources Kit - JISC
• Open Educational Resources - Wikipedia
• OER Knowledge Cloud
• Ostrich – OER – University of Bath
• MIT Open Courseware
• Harvard University OCP
• Content without borders
• Librarian Chick
• Open Tapestry
• UTAS Open Educational Resource Repository
• Ostrich OER Repository – University of Bath
• Cambridge Reusable Learning Objects
• OpenStax CNX
• Jorum Open
• Open Course Library

Open Courses
While not all of the courses listed below may not be truly open in terms of transparency, maximum reusability and participatory collaboration they provide unrestricted access.
Open Access Textbooks
The cost of textbooks can significantly impact students’ ability to participate in education, providing open education resources can reduce that barrier.

- Open access textbooks.org
- Media Hack Media Studies Textbook
- Open Textbook Library
- 170 Free Textbooks Open Culture
- Textbooks under Creative Commons
- Bookboon
- Textbook Revolution
- Flatworld Knowledge

CREATING OER
In addition to incorporating OER into your teaching you can produce open content and make it freely available. Some reasons for engaging in OER production include the ability to collaborate with staff across the university and external institutions, interaction with a wider audience, to create a transparent learning community, to create enduring learning resources for students to refer to after they have finished studying and reduce costs for students access to educational materials.

LA TROBE IP POLICY
The University encourages the authors of teaching materials to consider making such materials publicly and freely available, e.g., via the internet, or publishing commercially providing that those materials are not subject to a prior third party agreement, such as a contract for the design or delivery of a course or training program.

- La Trobe University Intellectual Property Policy

COPYRIGHT
It is the responsibility of the author to acquire written permission for use of copyrighted material in an OER. Permission should be sought if any doubt exists.

- University Copyright Use
LICENSING
Open educational resources are identified by their free or open license that allows the free use and repurposing by others.

CREATIVE COMMONS
Creative Commons is one of the more widely used licensing agreements. It provides a standardised way to share and grant permissions to use and repurpose work within the boundaries of copyright law. Licensors retain copyright of the work while allowing others to use, copy, distribute and/or repurpose their work. There are six Creative Commons licenses to choose from. Creative Commons.org also provides a way for licensors to waive all rights and place a work in the public domain.

- About Creative Commons Licences
- Considerations for licensors and licensees
- Choose a Creative Commons License

ACCESSIBILITY
You should adhere to the University’s Accessibility Guidelines for web when producing OER content. Using headings in html or Word documents, transcripts for videos and descriptions for images are some of the main requirements to consider.

- Online Accessibility for people with disabilities
- La Trobe University Digital Marketing Accessibility Guidelines
- Developing Inclusive Resources

LIBRARY REPOSITORY
If you are creating an OER for learning and teaching it is recommended that you host the file in Research Online, the University’s Online Open Repository.

OEP IN STUDENT LEARNING
Beyond the enhanced access to educational resources for students, OEP can provide opportunities for collaborative and experiential learning for students through open applications that provide visibility of content and processes to invite a “new kind of critical reading” (Brown, Adler, 2008, p.20). OEP can provide students the opportunity to participate in wider knowledge communities and to close the gap between formal and informal learning.

Students can use open platforms like wikiversity to develop their own textbooks, or participate on other sites to contribute to collective knowledge projects.
OEP IN RESEARCH

While this guide is primarily a resource for OEP in learning and teaching, OEP also encourages open research practice through

- Publicly transparent planning, documentation and reporting of research, teaching and assessment.
- Public online access to publications of research outcomes and the data that informs it.
- Recognised and rewarded engagement with communities of open research and open education resource production and practice.

(La Trobe University Open Education Working Group, Discussion Paper on Open Education, 2013, p2)

OEP AT LA TROBE

La Trobe University examples

- Indigenous and Intercultural Health
- The Roman World on iTUnesU
- Snapshot Journal

REFERENCES & RESOURCES


McGreal, R., Macintosh, W. & Taylor, J.(Eds.) (2013). Open Educational Resources University: An Assessment and Credit for Students Initiative, Perspectives on Open and Distance Learning, Commonwealth of Learning and Athabasca University, Vancouver.


*International Review of Research in Open and Distance Education, Special Issue – Openness and the Future of Higher Education.*


**WEBSITES**

*How to source free online content*  Leigh Blackall  
*Search for Creative Commons Images*  Ruth Jelley  
*Getting Started with Open Educational Resources*  (Presentation by the La Trobe University Open Education Working Group available through La Trobe University’s Library’s OER Repository)  
*Digital Skills for Collaborative OER Development*  This is a hands-on course where you will learn and demonstrate your skills in using digital technologies for collaborative OER development culminating in a design blueprint for developing an OER learning sequence.  
*Dimension of Openess in Education*  Learn about the concepts of open educational practices (OEP), open policy, open source and open teaching to achieve more sustainable education for all.  
*School of Open – P2PU*  P2PU offer online courses, face-to-face workshops, and innovative training programs on topics such as Creative Commons licenses, open educational resources, and sharing creative works.  
*Open Source.com*  Open source projects, products, or initiatives that embrace and celebrate open exchange, collaborative participation, rapid prototyping, transparency, meritocracy, and community development.