

Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources | [OER](#)

An OER is any course material that is free for students to access and use. They can include textbooks, videos, handouts, activities, etc. Many textbooks in this category are created as open access (OA), but traditionally published textbooks that can be accessed as free ebooks through the library are also included.

"Access to Free or Low-cost Course Textbooks or other Materials" was ranked by our students as the single MOST important library service.

95% ranked it as "Very Important" or "Important" in the 2024 MISO survey.



View the library's full guide to OER.

Benefits

OER are affordable (free!) for students, who receive immediate and unlimited access. Which means all students will have the ability to be prepared the first day of class.

You get flexibility and control over the content. Textbooks which were created as open access often include Creative Commons (CC) licenses which allow you to mix, match, and edit content to match your course objectives. Even without a CC license, you have the option to create a coursepack using links to individual book chapters and articles within the library's databases.

Discovery

There are numerous repositories and directories of OER. Our favorites are linked through the library's OER guide (see the QR code). Sometimes, a quick internet search will yield the best results. You can also check to see if your materials are already available through the library.

To find out if the library already has the material for free, it's as simple as running a Quick Search using the blue box on the library's home page. If we have it, it will be in the results.

Library Licensed Materials

This category includes anything owned or licensed by the library. Most digital library materials have unlimited access, allowing an entire class to access them at once. All you have to do is include the link in your syllabus and/or Canvas and students can choose to view them online or download them to their personal devices.

Books and articles are the most common, but the library also provides free digital access to several citation manuals and discipline standards, free personal newspaper subscriptions, and several video and music streaming databases.

If the material is in a physical format, it can always be placed on reserve within the library.

Assistance

Librarians can assist with finding OER, including checking to see whether materials are available to include in the library's collection for unlimited free access. Email ask@etown.libanswers.com.

There are 1.3 million eBooks in the High Library. They've already been paid for, please don't make students pay again.