



IN THE HUB

March 2nd - 6th
2020

What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines Open Educational Resources (OER) as:
- "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."¹

Four Reasons Why I Love OER

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE BY DANIELLE PROVENCHER

1

It makes school much more affordable.

According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, 7 out of 10 undergrads opted not to purchase a required textbook because it was not affordable for them.² I know it's important to have all the resources I need to succeed in school. OER are free for students, which means that everyone has the book they need right at the beginning of the semester.

2

It encourages me to enrol in OER-related courses and participate.

I would prefer to enrol in a course that includes OER. It makes me feel that the educator teaching the course understands the high cost of education and cares about my financial well-being.

3

It gives me certainty for my future.

When a teacher decides to use open resources, they are free to adapt the resources to best suit the course and the group's learning needs. I like to know that the course is built for me, and not just built to follow a textbook.

4

I feel I am learning much more.

As David Wiley states, we ultimately learn by what we share, absorb, and intake, as well as by the activities we participate in.³ Copyright limits what we are allowed to do, and if students learn by doing, then copyright restricts learning. Open licenses, on the other hand, enable all kinds of learning activities. I love this freedom.

Open Education Week Events in the Hub

All Week - Curated list of webinars
Friday March 6th - Open Resource Grab +
Textbook Display

Sources

- ¹ UNESCO. (2019). Open educational resources (OER). Building Knowledge Societies. Retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer>
- ² Semma, M. (2018). Why are college textbooks so expensive? Trends in Higher Education. Retrieved from <https://tophat.com/blog/3-reasons-students-paying-ever-textbooks/>
- ³ Wiley, D. (2017). OER-enabled pedagogy. Iterating Toward Openness. Retrieved from <https://opencontent.org/blog/archives/5009>

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