Open Educational Resources 101

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What is an OER?

Open Educational Resources
What is an OER?

- Educational material
- Freely available
- Uses open license
Open Education

“He who receives an idea from me, receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me.”

–Thomas Jefferson, 1813
Why use OERs?

● Promotion of open education, freedom of access

● Benefits for Students
  ○ Better support for distance students
  ○ Some OERs allow for more flexibility (access, accessibility, ESL, etc.)
  ○ Often allows for active and learner-centered approaches to learning
  ○ Students exposed to new technologies and formats (digital literacy)
Why use OERs?

Let's make a new edition of our textbook every 6 months so they can never sell it back.
Why use OERs?

![Graph showing the increase in textbook prices compared to CPI from 1980 to 2015. The graph indicates that textbook prices have increased significantly more than the CPI over this period.](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/)

Why use OERs?

- In an effort to avoid the high costs of textbooks, students ...
  - Purchase an older edition
  - Delay purchase
  - Never buy the textbook
  - Share with someone else
  - Download it illegally from the internet
Why use OERs?

● Benefits for Instructors
  ○ Useful supplemental material for class
  ○ Allows creator to benefit from promotion of name/work (and university)
  ○ Preservation of material for endangered subjects
  ○ Flexibility for instructor - not tied to organization of a textbook
  ○ Students can become co-creators
Understanding Open Licenses
“Five R” Permissions of OER

- Retain (make, own, control copies)
- Reuse
- Revise (adapt, adjust, modify, alter content)
- Remix (combine with other open content)
- Redistribute
Creative Commons Licenses

FIGURE 2: THE SIX VARIATIONS OF THE CC LICENSES
Creative Commons Licenses

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Discovering and Using OERs
Resources for Discovering OERs

MERLOT
Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching

Khan Academy

Project Gutenberg

flickr

Digital Public Library of America
Resources for Discovering OERs
Evaluating OERs

- Accuracy
- Reputation of author/institution
- Standard of production
- Accessibility
- Fitness for purpose
- Reviews of other faculty
Take a moment to explore!

Use the list of OER resources to explore the OERs in your discipline.
Creating OERs
Getting Started

1. Consider your license.
2. Accessibility and discoverability concerns.
3. Who is on your team?
4. Funding
5. Tools/platforms
Tools for Creating OERs

Audacity®

Project Gutenberg

FMA
Tools for Creating OERs
More exploration!

Even if you aren’t planning to create an OER, explore one of the listed platforms to see if an OER created using it might be of use to you.
OER Efforts at CSU
OERs at CSU

● Workshops
  ○ Open Textbooks Workshop - Glenda Thornton - Oct. 24th 11:30, RT-401
  ○ Copyright Basics Workshop - Glenda Thornton - Nov. 28th 11:30, RT-401

● Support
  ○ Center for eLearning
  ○ Center for Instructional Technology and Distance Learning
  ○ Michael Schwartz Library
  ○ Center for Faculty Excellence
OERs at CSU

- Textbook Affordability Small Grants
  - Goal: To encourage and support adoption of low- or no-cost course materials in order to save students money.
  - $500 grant to redesign a course and replace a commercial textbook with an open textbook that requires no modification; a $1,000 grant to revise or remix an existing open textbook
  - Deadline for completion of project: January 15, 2018
  - Deadline for application: **November 13th, 2017**
Questions or Comments?

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