Using OER: A Panel Discussion

Focus on Student Learning Workshop

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Introduction

Contact

Contact me for more info about any of the topics today!

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2025 OER Challenge Grant

A team comprising six CoB faculty, an instructional designer, an LMS administrator, and a student employee at Shepherd has been awarded one of ten $25,000 OER Challenge Grants for the 2025–2026 academic year.

- ▶ Expand the number of BADM core courses using OER from 7 to 12 (Zahra, Mandy, Josh, Rob, Jimmy, Everett)
- ▶ Create a redistributable open-pedagogy course framework (Jim, Josh)
- ▶ Improve adoptability of OER at Shepherd & beyond via content packaging & use of the Brightspace LOR (Rob, Rich)
- ▶ Develop training materials for faculty & staff at Shepherd & beyond (Rob, Yildiz)

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OER

What is OER?

"Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research materials intentionally created and licensed to be free for the end user to own, share, and in most cases, modify." – Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA 4.0 International)

Typically made available under one of the licenses from Creative Commons.

The 5 R's of OER

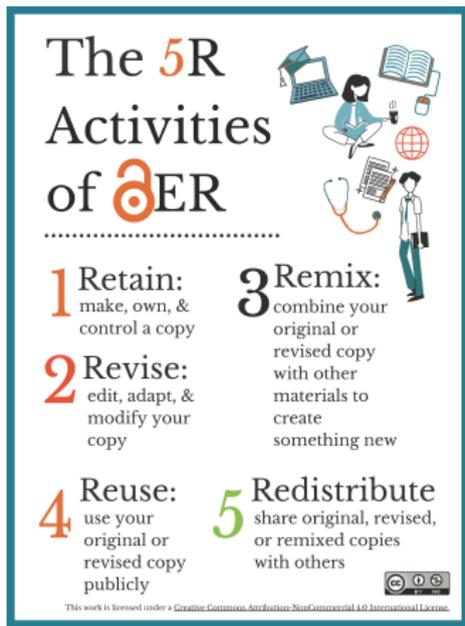Figure 1: The 5R Activities of OER, by Elizabeth Speer (CC-BY-NC 4.0 International)

Why: Benefits to Students

According to Abbey K. Elder, in The OER Starter Kit (CC-BY 4.0 International), OER benefits students through cost savings and access to a quality education. Notably, OER provides students "the opportunity to engage with your content before, during, and after your course".

Students can also engage with OER as creators, as part of an open pedagogy approach.

Why: Benefits to Instructors

According to Abbey K. Elder, in The OER Starter Kit (CC-BY 4.0 International), "the freedom to adapt OER to instructional needs is often the most attractive aspect of OER."

As James Dovel notes (CC-BY 4.0 International), OER "improved my teaching, excited the students, created new materials, fulfilled numerous tenure requirements, and provided experiential learning opportunities."

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Results in West Virginia

"Since its launch in 2021, Open Learning WV has helped West Virginia college students save an estimated $9.6 million on course materials by promoting the adoption of Open Educational Resources..." – WV Higher Education Policy Commission, 2025-04-17.

WVHEPC has accomplished this partly though a series of grants that encourage faculty to adopt, adapt, and create OER.

OER Strategies

Figure 2: Adopt, Curate, Adapt, Improve, Create

Finding OER to Adopt/Adapt

- MERLOT
- OER Commons
- Pressbooks
- MIT OpenCourseWare
- OpenStax
- SkillsCommons
- . . . and many more!

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Curation Example: Brit-Lit OER

Figure 3: Brit-Lit OER by Jeremy Larance (CC-BY-NC 4.0 International)

OER Creation Example: Szarka's Excel Tutorials

Figure 4: Szarka's Excel Tutorials on the Shepherd Brightspace LOR (CC-BY-NC 4.0 International)

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Improving OER Adoption

- Make OER you've adopted, curated, adapted, or created available to your colleagues on the Brightspace LOR
  - `Public OER repo` (anyone can view)
  - `Instructor only - OER repo` (for Shepherd instructors only; test banks, etc.)
- Package content as SCORM, IMS Common Cartridge, QTI, etc., for external redistribution

Conclusion

Next Steps

- Learn more
  - Join OpenLearingWV-L (contact Beez Schell)
  - Attend WV HEPC's OER Convening, April 8–10
  - Training materials forthcoming on Brightspace
  - Watch Rob's fall FoSL presentation
- Find OER to adopt
- Curate, Adapt, or Improve OER
- Create new OER works
- Use open pedagogy to create OER in your classes (framework forthcoming)
- Make OER Available to your colleagues!

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Contact

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