

# 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)

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

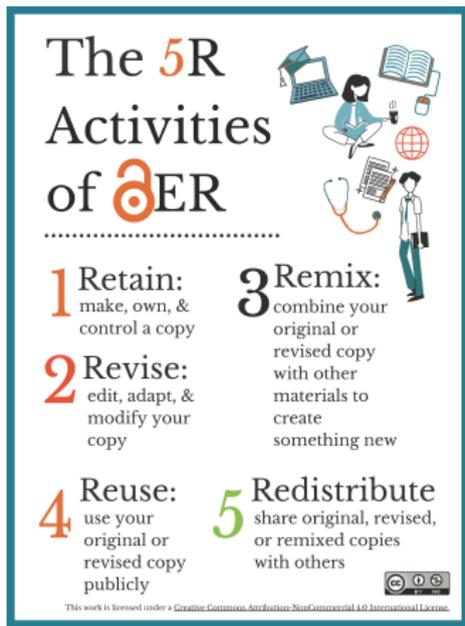


Figure 1: [The 5R Activities of OER](#), by Elizabeth Speer (CC-BY-NC 4.0 International)

## 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.”

## 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 through a series of [grants](#) that encourage faculty to adopt, adapt, and create OER.



# OER Strategies

**ADOPT OER  
IN YOUR COURSE**



**CURATE  
COLLECTIONS  
OF OER**



**ADAPT &  
IMPROVE  
EXISTING OER**



**CREATE  
NEW OER WORKS**



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

# Finding OER to Adopt/Adapt

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

# Curation Example: Brit-Lit OER

The screenshot displays the 'British Literature OER' website interface. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the site title 'British Literature OER' on the left, and 'Search', 'Dashboard', and 'Login or Signup' on the right. Below this, a secondary navigation bar lists 'HOME', 'COLLECTIONS', 'AUTHORS (A-D)', 'AUTHORS (E-R)', 'AUTHORS (S-Z)', and 'ABOUT'. The main content area features a grid of six author profile cards. Each card includes a portrait image, the author's name and dates, and a publication date. The authors shown are Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (1859-1930), Blake, William (1757-1827), Dickens, Charles (1812-1870), Brontë, Anne (1820-1849), Byron, Lord George Gordon (1788-1824), and Smith, Charlotte (1749-1806).

| Author Name (Dates)                   | Portrait Image | Published Date |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan (1859-1930)   |                | Mar 07, 2024   |
| Blake, William (1757-1827)            |                | Mar 01, 2024   |
| Dickens, Charles (1812-1870)          |                | Feb 08, 2024   |
| Brontë, Anne (1820-1849)              |                | Apr 09, 2024   |
| Byron, Lord George Gordon (1788-1824) |                | Feb 08, 2024   |
| Smith, Charlotte (1749-1806)          |                | Apr 10, 2024   |

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

# OER Creation Example: Szarka's Excel Tutorials

Search > Results > Szarka's Excel Tutorials



## Szarka's Excel Tutorials

19 items | Created Thursday, August 7, 2025 | By Anonymous User

MS Excel video tutorials by Rob Szarka. Licensed CC-BY-NC and ready to import into your Brightspace section!

 **Advanced Excel: PQE Merge Queries 1** ▾

Anonymous User published Sunday, January 11, 2026 6:27 PM EST  
Video explaining how to join multiple Excel "tables" (any table...  
[more...](#)

Topic | ⓘ Ⓞ Some rights reserved

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 **Advanced Excel: Excel Data Types 1 (Stocks & Currencies)** ▾

Anonymous User published Sunday, August 17, 2025 9:33 AM EDT  
Video demonstrating how to create a simple research dashboar...  
[more...](#)

Module | ⓘ Ⓞ Some rights reserved

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

# 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 OpenLearningWV-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!

# Contact

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