

Finding High Quality OER

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OER is a big open world, by design, but there is some structure.

Learn the lingo

- Learn the terminology and mechanics of how and what people share
 - Creative Commons
 - CC video
 - CC images
 - CC text
- Open texts v. open textbooks
v. open courses v. open courseware




Teamwork

- Bring in someone with OER experience
- Share understanding of scope
- Establish a shared space to gather options
- Evaluate on a shared rubric

Course
Adopt/Adapt/Create?
Semester
Syllabus
Course Schedule
Current textbook & reading assignments
Supplementary readings
of sections, # of instructors, # of students
Print alternative required or desired
Willingness to break from teacher supplemental materials or create your own
Time constraints for OER conversion process
Comfort with computers/web design
Special concerns/needs
Timeline/deadline
Department budget for conversion, if applicable

Repositories and Search Tools

- See what others have adopted for your course
- Don't reinvent the wheel if you can avoid it – review existing repositories, some stronger than others for certain disciplines



George Mason OER Metafinder Search
Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative Course Hub (Lumen)
Open Education Consortium Search
Open University
Creative Commons Search



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Start Right

- Build quality evaluation into your search process from the beginning
- These criteria matter for adopting, adapting, and creating

Alignment to course objectives
Appropriateness to college course (reading level, language, cultural sensitivity)
Quality in communication
Quality in contextualizing concepts
Depth of coverage – consider reading commitment for students
Breadth of coverage
Source reputation
Neutrality
Current
Accuracy
Licensing/validation (CC (specify)/Library/Public Domain/copyrighted)
Print option (book available, etc.)
Technical & Access (if not remixing on new host site/applicable)
Interactive elements
Findable
Captions/alt text
Free of errors
Ancillary/Supplementals?