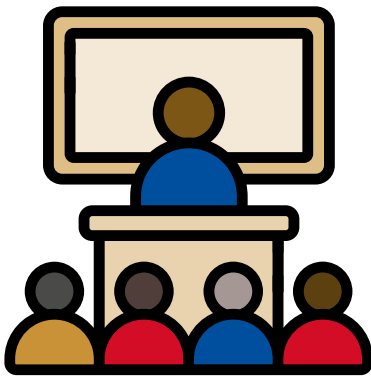


Open Educational Resources

One of the most important and basic requirements for student success is to ensure that all students have access to essential course materials. It is, therefore, essential to promote the use of free material.

Read the UP [Open educational resources \(OER\) guidelines](#).



How OER benefit lecturers

- Freely available, online resources are immediately accessible to students allowing for early semester engagement.
- OER are scalable and can be distributed to students with no cost to the student or the institution.
- Open textbooks can be tailored to meet the specific needs of the course and the context in which they are taught.
- OER enable your academic freedom and professional autonomy. The material can be adapted to suit the needs of your students and your learning outcomes.
- If you want to customise textbook content to suit your curriculum, OER allow you complete flexibility.
- OER can include assessment materials such as quizzes.
- You can involve students as co-creators and contributors (see [Open pedagogy: a guide to making open textbooks with students](#))



How OER benefit students

- OER can be edited, modified, and maintained by students throughout the semester.
- The digital nature of OER means students can highlight, add notes, and comments to their course material to enhance engagement.
- OER can be accessed both on campus and remotely.
- OER ensure fair access to all students; they are freely available and remove the financial burden of traditional resources.
- OER provide students with day one access to free course materials.

STEPS TO ADOPTING OER

1 FIND THE RIGHT TEXTBOOK:

- Search for possible textbooks:
 - OpenStax: <https://openstax.org/>
 - OpenSUNY textbooks: <https://textbooks.opensuny.org/>
 - Open Textbook Library: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>
 - OER Commons: <https://www.oercommons.org/>
- You could also use OER meta-finders, such as
 - [Mason](#)
 - [OASIS](#)

2 REVIEW AND EVALUATE:

See if it matches your criteria based on content, presentation, online accessibility, production options, platform compatibility, delivery options, interactivity, consistency between online and printed versions, and available supplementary material. Use the UP [Guidelines for prescribed materials](#) for assistance.

3 DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO USE AS-IS OR MODIFY:

One of the benefits of open textbooks is the flexibility to modify and customize them for specific course designs as much or as little as you desire. If you want to make edits or append content, make sure the Creative Commons licence allows for that. You can find further advice on customising an open textbook in this guide: [Adaptation Guide](#).

4 DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR STUDENTS:

When using a textbook, provide the link to the textbook to your students. Alternatively, download copies of the book and put them on another site, such as your clickUP module or Google Drive. If you have a faculty website, you could put copies of the files there and send students to your website to download your copy of the textbook.

5 OER GRANTS

Do you want to apply for an OER grant? You can access the necessary information on how to apply here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydhkdo7v>. Contact Dr Marius Pienaar (marius.pienaar@up.ac.za) or Dr Sanet Haupt (sanet.haupt@up.ac.za).