

OER Resources at a Glance

What is OER?

OER is the acronym for Open Educational Resources



What is the meaning of OER?

Basically, the OER movement brings together a variety of organizations committed to making freely available educational materials for students and instructors to use, adapt, share and reuse without legal ramifications (more detailed explanations follow).

In Rhode Island:

“On September 27, 2016, Governor Gina Raimondo announced a statewide Open Textbook Initiative during a press conference at Rhode Island College (RIC). The initiative challenged Rhode Island’s higher education institutions to reduce college costs by saving students \$5 million over five years using open licensed textbooks.”

[From the Office of Innovation, State of Rhode Island, <https://www.innovate.ri.gov/open-textbooks>.]

Why OER?

“Exorbitant textbook prices have become a barrier to student success. Over the last decade college textbook prices have increased by 88%. In addition, traditional textbooks carry restrictive licenses that prevent innovation by faculty and schools. That is why we need openly licensed textbooks, which can be freely distributed online and updated and improved by faculty. Digital textbooks can also address accessibility requirements, such as text-to-speech and translation supports.” [Quote is from and find more information on the Rhode Island initiative see [Open Textbook Initiative](#) at the Office of Innovation, State of Rhode Island, <https://www.innovate.ri.gov/open-textbooks>]

- Further description can be found in an article: [Affordable Course Content](#) by Kristi Jensen.
- For a very short video explanation, see YouTube: [Why Open Education Matters](#).

What are OER permissible usages?

“Many of the teaching, learning, and resource materials on eMedia reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. These privileges cannot be revoked as long as you follow the license terms.” (See [Usage Rights](#), OER Commons Help Center, rev. 3 January 2019) Or in simple terminology – the 5 Rs of Dr. David Wiley of [Lumen Learning](#):

Retain ♦ Reuse ♦ Revise ♦ Remix ♦ Redistribute

Where to find OER resources?

(Sampling of organizations, see [OER Resources in Detail](#) for more information)

- ♦ [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/)
- ♦ [EDUCAUSE](https://www.educause.edu/)
- ♦ [OER COMMONS](https://www.oercommons.org/)
- ♦ [OpenStax](https://openstax.org/)
- ♦ [Open Textbook Library](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)
- ♦ [SPARC \[Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition\]](https://sparcopen.org/)

