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Everyone Loves Free Stuff! Open Educational Resources for K-12

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Everyone Loves Free Stuff!
Open Educational Resources for K-12

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Learning Objectives

1. Understand what Open Educational Resources are
2. Know the benefits of OER
3. Know where to find OER
4. Recognize and understand Creative Commons Licensing
5. Know how to evaluate OER

What are Open Educational Resources?

Digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and re-use for teaching, learning and research.

Open educational resources include

- Full courses
- Course materials
- Textbooks
- Streaming videos
- Quizzes and Exams
- Software

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Pros & Cons of OER

Pros – OER allow us to:

- Maximize budgets. They are available without licensing or royalty fees.
- Be creative and adapt instructional resources to the individual needs of students.
- Continuously improve teaching materials.
- Rapidly disseminate timely information.
- Enrich existing traditional instructional materials.

Cons

- Not everyone is on board with OER.
- Overwhelming amount of resources – beware the rabbit hole!
- Some resources are poor quality.
- Evaluation takes time.

Librarians Should Lead the Way

- We are experts at collecting, evaluating, and curating information.

- Leverage this free content to promote access and equity.

- Become familiar with existing OER sites and make them discoverable.

- Develop an understanding of Creative Commons licensing to assist teachers to understand their options when it comes to using OER.
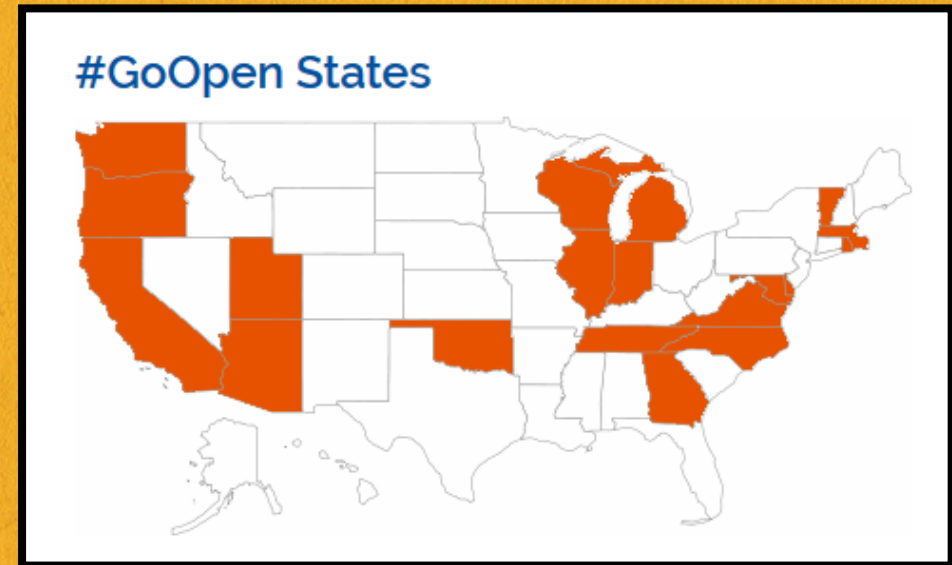
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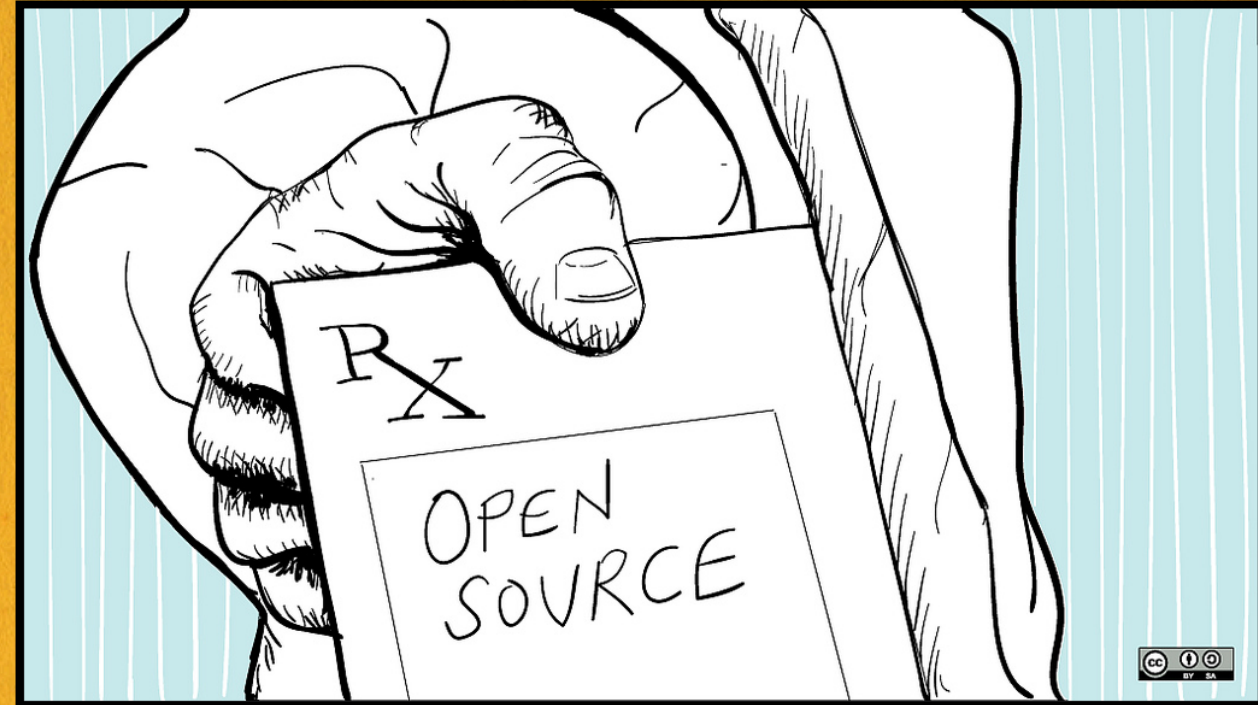# Who's Using OER in K-12 classrooms?

- 20 states have launched formal #GoOpen campaigns.

- 13 states currently maintaining OER repositories.

- Top pick: [Utah Education Network](#) connects all Utah school districts, schools, and higher education institutions to quality educational resources.

#GoOpen States

What's the difference between 'free' resources and OER?

- Not all free resources are OER!

- Key characteristic of OER is the intellectual property license and the freedoms the license grants to share and adapt it.

- Free resources that don't allow reuse, modification, or redistribution without permissions from the copyright holder are not OER

© User: OpenSource / "Open Source Prescription" / CC BY, SA, 2.0

Five Rs of Opennes

David Wiley's five Rs

Retain-the right to make and own a copy

Reuse-the right to use in a wide range of ways

Revise- the right to adapt, modify, and improve

Remix- the right to combine with other material to create something new

Redistribute- the right to share with others

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Merlot II
Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching

- Cal State's collection of more than 45,000 resources.

- peer-reviewed.

- rated by users.

- Over 3,000 open textbooks.

- Search by topic, audience, CC license, and peer review.

- [Go to Merlot II](#)

Curriki

- Curriculum + Wiki
- Open Education Award for Excellence (2017)
- Quality materials for teachers, parents and students.
- Free account allows use of all materials.
- Search collection by subject or by educational level.
- Also contains professional development materials.
- Spanish language version available
- Go to Curriki

cK-12

- Creates / aggregates high quality STEM content.

- Over 5,000 math and science concepts and FlexBooks (digital textbooks) for all learning types.

- Videos, images, simulations, real world applications, activities, flashcards, study guides, assessments and more.

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More cK-12

- Create account to use free content.

- Users create, modify and upload content to CK-12's website.

- Create groups and assignments.

- Save material to Library.
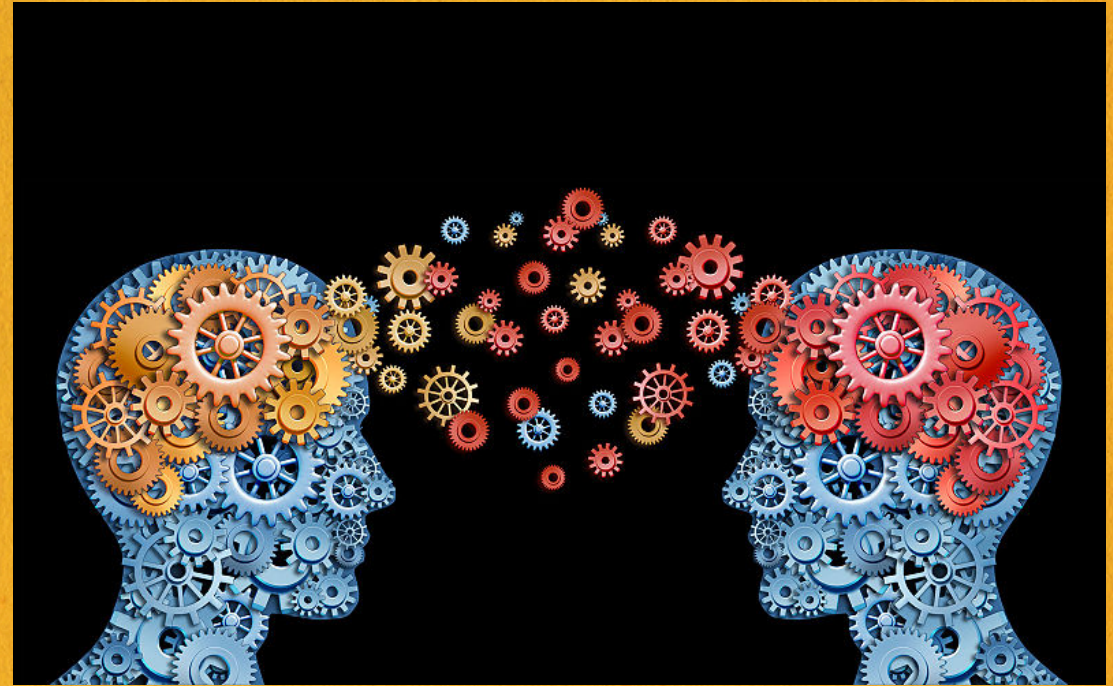
- Correspond with other users in the Café.

- Go to cK-12

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OER Commons

- Search materials by education level, subject, and standard.

- Lesson Builder feature allows creation of interactive lessons.

- Large collection of lesson plans, worksheets, and activities.
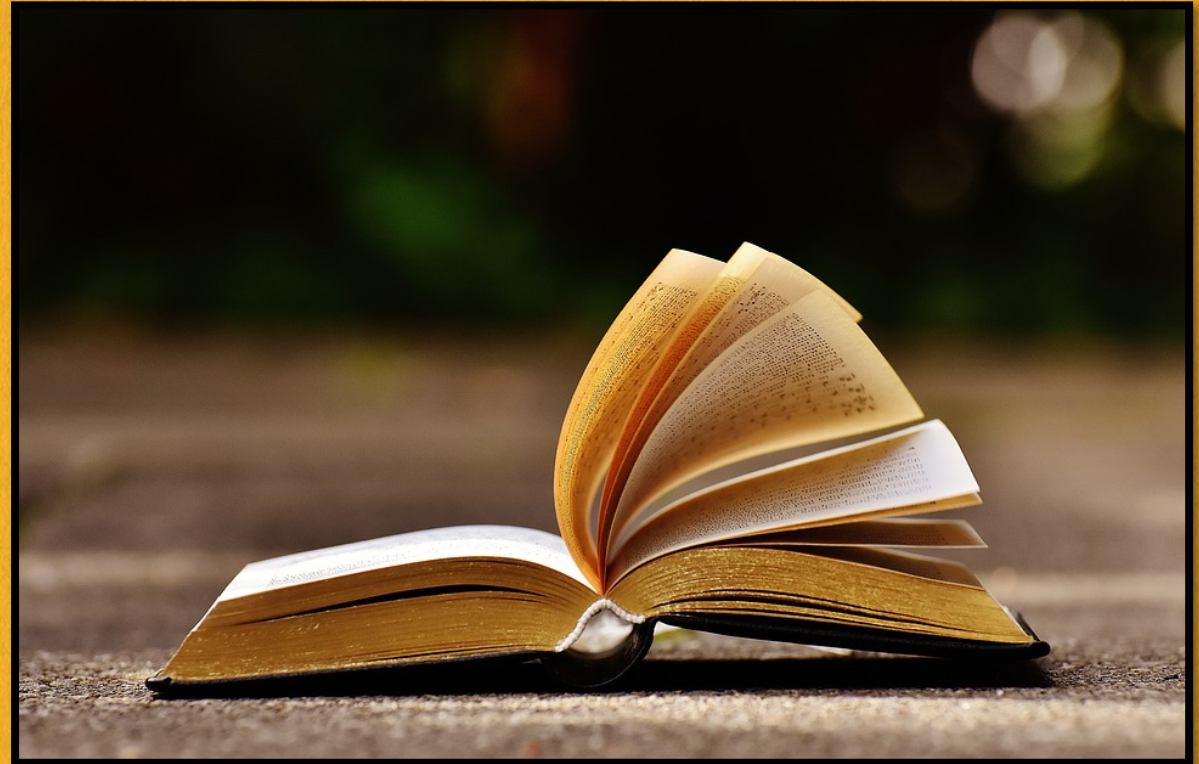
- Go to OER Commons

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WikiJunior

- Free age-appropriate non-fiction books for children from birth to age 12.

- Print PDF copies of books.

- Books produced by a worldwide community of writers, teachers, and students.

- Users can join in and write, edit, and rewrite each module and book to improve its content.

- Go to Wikijunior

Creative Commons

Many authors of OER use **Creative Commons** (CC) as their open licensing system of choice.

- CC provides free, easy-to-use copyright licenses that give others permission to share and use creative work.

- It's not separate from copyright, but instead is a way of easily sharing your copyrighted work with others.

- Traditional copyright = "All rights reserved."
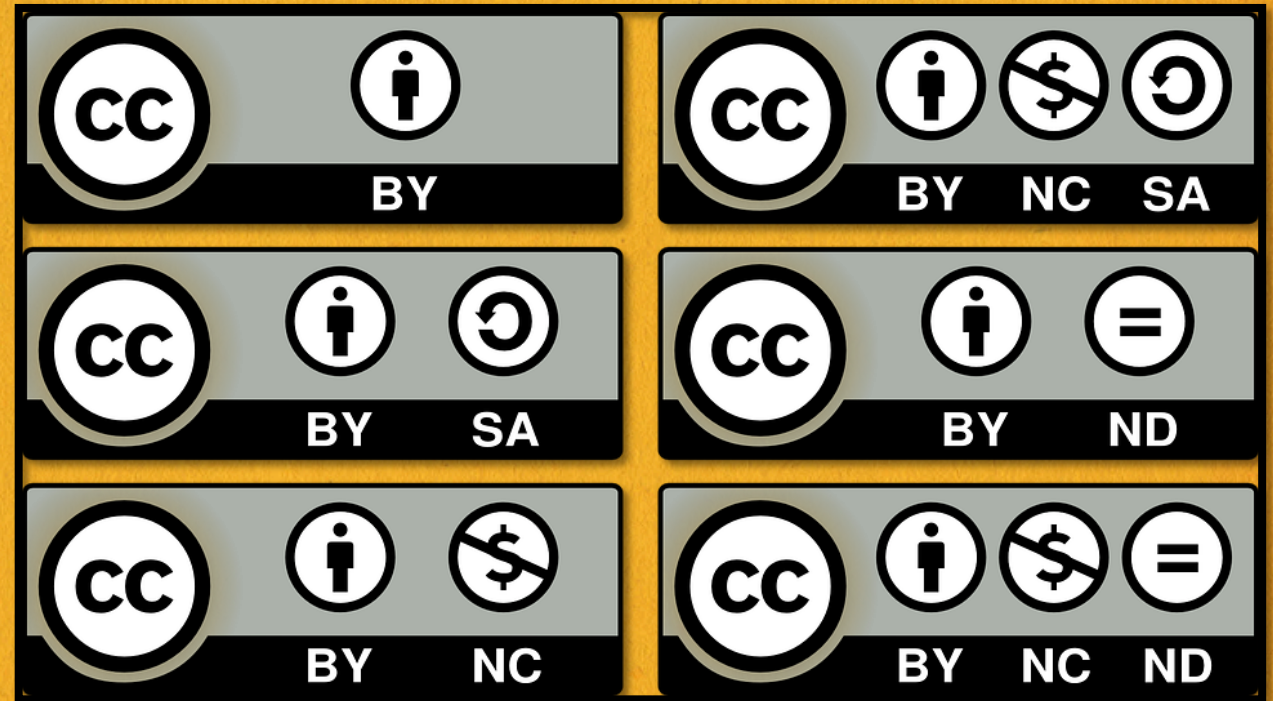
- CC licensing = "Some rights reserved."

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Creative Commons Licensing

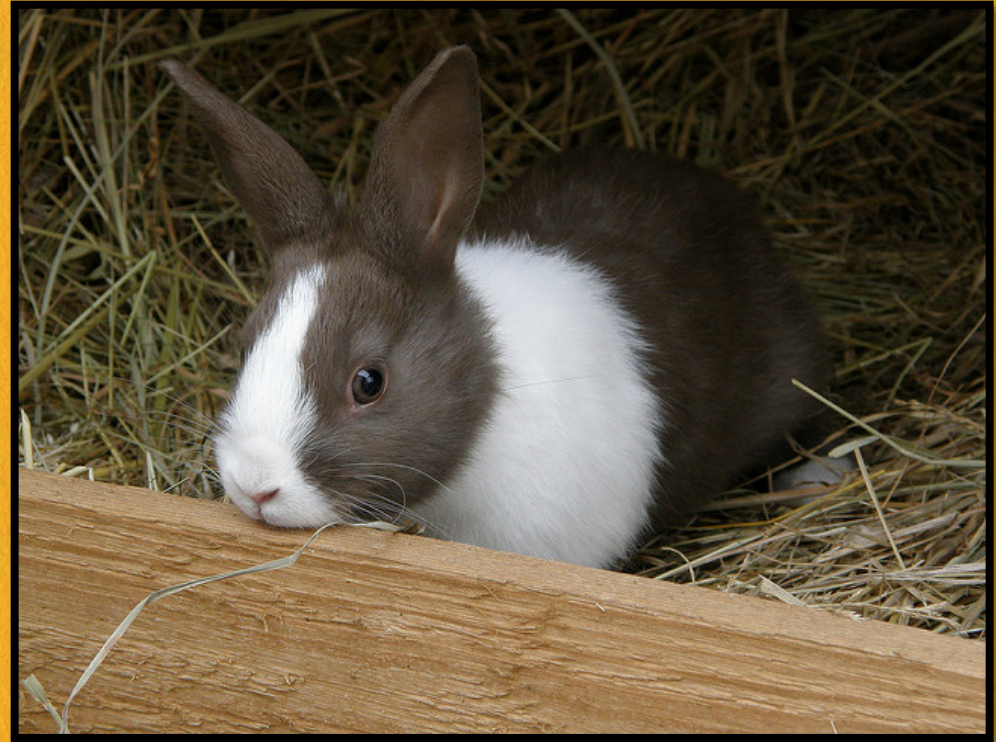CC provides several different licenses for creators to choose from:

- CC 0: Public domain
- BY: Attribution (most open of all)
- SA: Share Alike
- NC: Non-commercial
- ND: No derivatives

How to Properly Attribute CC Materials

- credit the creator

- provide the title of the work

- provide the URL where the work is hosted

- indicate the type of license and provide a link to the license

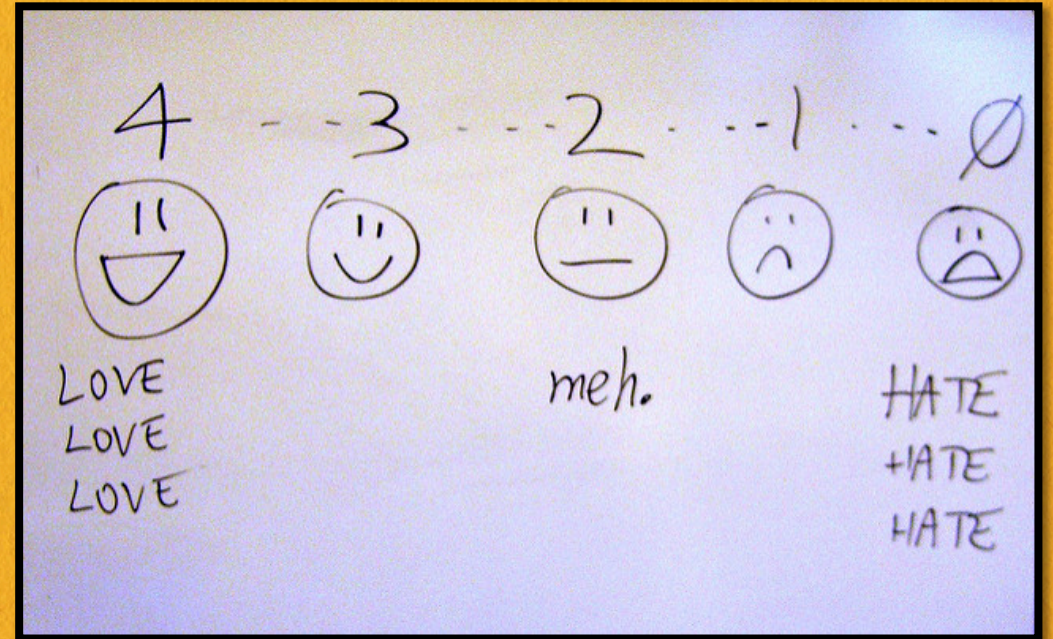- keep intact any copyright notice associated with the work.

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Evaluating Open Educational Resources

- Does it cover the **content** you'd like your students to learn in this course or module?

- How can you **use** the content? Verify the CC license that the resource is under.

- What would you like to **do** with it? Does only a portion of it apply to your class? Would you possibly want to combine this OER with another OER or resource?

- [Evaluating Open Learning](#)

- [Evaluation Toolkit Handbook](#)

- [OER Evaluation Rubric](#)

© [billsoPHOTO](#) / [Evaluation scale](#) / [CC BY-SA](#)

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OER Resources by Subject

Reading/Writing/Literature

Freereading.net

Lit2Go – audio books

LibriVox – audio books

OER for Writing

K12 Handhelds – free e-books

Foreign Languages

Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning

Social Studies

USHistory.org – free textbooks

OpenEd – homework, videos, lesson plans

More OER Resources by Subject

STEM

[Illustrative Mathematics](#)

[Algebra2go](#)

[PhET](#)

[Digital Library for Earth System Education](#)

[National Science Digital Library](#)

[MIT Blossoms](#)

[NASA Education](#)

Image, Music & Sound Effects Sources

Unsplash – all images are CC zero. No attribution necessary

Pixabay - Free photos for commercial and private use – all images CC 0

VisualHunt – search by license type

Flickr – search by license type

MusOpen – download audio clips, sheet music, and music education resources

CCMixter – free audio clips

FreeSound - database of CC licensed sound effects

Google Advance Image Search – narrow your search by usage rights

Further Reading

- [What the Heck is OER?](#)
- [OER Handbook for Educators](#)
- [K12 OpenEd](#) (blog)
- [State of the States: Open Educational Resources in K-12 Education](#)
- [#GoOpen Initiative](#)

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