Centering diversity and inclusion in courses when adapting existing OERs

Broadening your curriculum
with inclusive OERs

Adapting Open Education Resources (OERs), that are inclusive and culturally responsible, into your course is a great way to take a step toward diversifying your curriculum.

> OERs are teaching resources that are free, accessible, and shareable and have either an open license or are in the public domain (UNESCO).

Because OERs are either in the public domain or have an open license (e.g., Creative Commons), you have the ability to use and adapt the material, while still retaining authorship of your work.

OERs are more than textbooks:

- Texts / sources
- Lesson plans
- Activities/Labs
- Data sets
- Case studies
- Figures / diagrams
- Games / simulations
- Lectures
- Modules
- Syllabi
- Study guides
- Homework
- Assignments
- And more!

Objectives of this guide:

- Understand the role of OERs in building an inclusive curriculum
- Find OERs appropriate for your course
- Audit OERs for openness and inclusion
- Take steps to adapt existing OERs and create supplemental instructor notes
- Disseminate the adaptations and publish them online

Open Educational Resources (OERs) provide teachers, learners, & others with legal permissions to engage in the 5R activities.

1 REUSE: Content can be reused in its unaltered form.

2 RETAIN: Users have the right to make, archive, and "own" copies of the content.

3 REVISE: Content can be adapted, adjusted, modified, or altered.

4 REMIX: The original content can be combined with other content to create something new.

5 REDISTRIBUTE: Copies of the content can be shared with others in its original, revised, or remixed form.

Lumen Learning. (2019). What are Open Educational Resources? Retrieved from: https://lumenlearning.com/about/whats-oer

OERs and Social Justice
Key ways that OERs address equity issues

Historically marginalized communities are systematically unrecognized and underrepresented in STEM materials (Sleeter & Grant, 2011; Becker & Nilsson, 2021).

Furthermore, open materials do not necessarily translate into achieving greater equity and inclusivity (DeRosa & Robison 2017; Croft & Brown 2020).

OERs can address social justice issues by aligning with social justice principles of redistribution, recognition, and representation (Lambert, 2018). Adapting OERs that are intentional in their connection with social justice can increase student access, develop deeper student relationships with course content, and strengthen collaborative capacity to pursue the larger goals of a more empowered educational ecosystem.

References

Becker, M.L. & Nilsson, M.R. (2021). College Chemistry Textbooks Fail on Gender Representation. *Journal of Chemical Education*, *98*(4), 1146–1151. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.0c01037

Croft, B. & Brown, M. (2020). Inclusive open education: presumptions, principles, and practices. *Distance Education*, *41*(2), 156–170. https://doi.org/10.1080/01587919.2020.1757410

DeRosa, R., & Robinson, S. (2017). From OER to open pedagogy: Harnessing the power of open. In R. S. Jhangiani, & R. Biswas-Diener (Eds.), Open: The philosophy and practices that are revolutionizing education and science (pp. 115–124). Ubiquity Press. https://doi.org/10.5334/bbc.i

Lambert, S. (2018), "Changing our (dis)course: A distinctive social justice aligned definition of open education", *Journal of Learning for Development*, Vol. 5 No. 3, pp. 225-244, https://jl4d.org/index.php/ejl4d/article/view/290/334.

Sleeter, C.E., & Grant, C.A. (1991). Race, Class, Gender, and Disability in Current Textbooks. In M. Apple & L.K. Christian-Smith (Eds.), The Politics of the Textbook (pp. 78–110). New York, NY: Routledge.

Tips for adapting OERs that center diversity

Finding OERs that center diversity and inclusion can be difficult. You can look for resources on repositories like OER Commons, OpenStax, Merlot, and Open Textbook Library or use a search tool, like the Mason OER Metafinder (MOM)

Once you find them, adapt them to your course (e.g., 7-week terms).

What if you can't find an OER that is inclusive? ADAPT IT!

Consider these questions before acting:

What are the goals of your course?

Why are you pursuing open strategies and materials?

What types of OERs suit your needs for this course (texts, lesson plans, activities, videos, syllabi, data set, test bank, etc.)?

How can you adapt an OER to improve its inclusiveness? Consider improving on one or more of these elements*:

Openness- where students, readers, and community members are encouraged and engaged to contribute their knowledge and experience easily.

Diversity- where students analyze how diversity improves learning in classrooms, workplaces, and communities.

Recognition- where students analyze how images, experiences, knowledge, and recognition impact inequalities.

Bias- where students analyze and discuss human biases as part of the material, activities, and information.

Agency & Representation- where materials demonstrate marginalized people and groups speak for themselves and not have their stories told by others.

Connection and belonging- where students connect with other participants, readers, community members, orprofessionals in the field.

*Adapted from the Peralta-Online-Equity-Rubric-3.0-Oct-2020, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Marja Bakermans created this post
8:19 pm   19 May 2016

Adaptation to: Global Temperature Change in the 21st Century

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14 KB

Assignment_5.pdf
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Assignment_1.pdf
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Assignment_4.pdf
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I used this module in a large (i.e., 150 students) introductory Biology course for non-majors that ran for 7 weeks and had no laboratory component. I used this module because it met several learning objectives for this class including the ability to quantify, analyze, and interpret biological data. In this posting I have included Instructor Notes that describe how I modified and supplemented the module to create 5 assignments that students worked on in teams of 4-5 students. This class met 4 days per week and students were provided 1 day per week to work on their group project assignments. I also included several assignments that were supplemental to the module.

Figure. Example of supplemental information shared back with the teaching community of the modifications I (Marja) made to an available resource.

DEIJ Audit Resources
To facilitate centering diversity and inclusion

"OER Evaluation Rubric" by Open 4 Social Justice Class, Lehman College, CUNY is licensed under CC BY 4.0

Boston University's School of Public Health has a tool that you can reference. In particular, they have a nice section on "Diversity Through Course Content and Materials" that considers how to contribute diversity across different materials in the course (e.g., assignments, lectures, readings, etc.)

This open rubric allows you to use and customize it for the best application to your course! It's an OER!

Peralta Community College District. (2020). Peralta Online Equity Rubric, version 3.0 [Creative Commons license: BY-SA]. Retrieved from https://web.peralta.edu/de/peralta-online-equity-initiative/equity/

OERs in teaching, research, and promotion
Don't forget to

1. Share your adaptations to an OER repository!

2. Add and share supplemental pieces, like instructor notes, new assignments, or rubrics, when you publish your adaptations.

In adapting and implementing these inclusive OERs in your course, what information can you collect that can inform others? Can you begin or contribute to a SOTL study on OERs?

Reflect on the changes to your course in your annual faculty reports and dossier for promotion and tenure. Driving OER Sustainability for Student Success (DOERS3) 's website (https://www.doers3.org/tenure-and-promotion.html) encourages you to consider how your work with inclusive OERs improves student learning outcomes, contributes to campus innovation, increases student engagement, reduces cost to students, is used in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTOL), disseminates knowledge to larger audiences, connects to presentations, publications, and grants. Complete their Contribution Matrix for ideas on how to document and communicate your efforts.
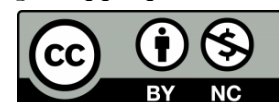
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