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2022

University of Memphis Open Educational Resources (OER) Faculty Quick Start Guide

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Faculty QuickStart Guide

Open Educational Resources

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

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Acknowledgements

This handbook was created in cooperation with the University of Memphis:

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
DR. KAREN WEDDLE-WEST, VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

with special appreciation for Katie Moynihan, former library assistant for Research & Instructional Services at McWherter Library.

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Preface

1. TENNESSEE TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY FOR STUDENT SUCCESS TASKFORCE

In Spring 2020, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) convened the Tennessee Textbook Affordability for Student Success Taskforce, a coalition of teaching faculty, students, librarians, and administrators from various universities and community colleges across the state, to address equity in college classrooms by lowering the costs of course textbooks and learning materials.

Since its inception, the Taskforce has hosted Tennessee's Open Education Week, including seminars about the implementation of OER at various institutions of higher learning through Tennessee and workshops about the overlap between DEI and textbook affordability.

2. OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) GRANT PROJECT

The Taskforce also started the Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Project, which awards funds to OER research and implementation teams across the state. In January 2021, the UofM received one such grant based on our status as a locally governed state institution and our intentions to use open educational resources to support access, diversity and equity initiatives. The $100,000 grant has been used at the UofM to help implement OER initiatives in the following three areas:

1. Initiatives connected to the larger campus effort for eradicating racism and promoting social justice.
2. Support for faculty development provided by University Libraries on use of OER.
3. The pilot of initiatives in MATH1530, MATH1710C, ENGL2201 and ENGL2202.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF OER MATERIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

The information here is intended to provide all teaching staff of the University of Memphis a basic understanding of Open Education Resources. With this information and the available tools and training, faculty and instructors will move from the basics of OER concepts to the discovery and implementation of OER materials into their courses.

Implications of OER

Definition of OER

UNESCO defines Open Educational Resources (OER) as "teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions."
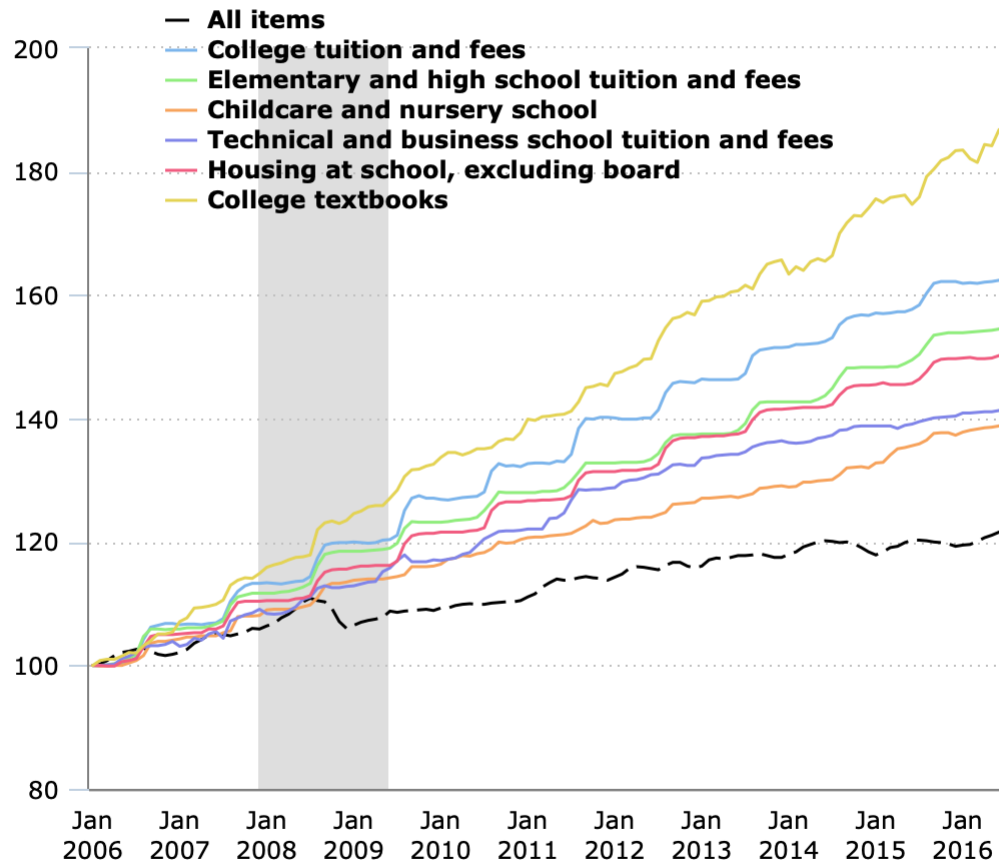
Key to this definition is that OER are educational materials ("teaching, learning, and research materials") that are free ("no-cost') for anyone to use and change ("access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions"), which can be done because they are made open ("reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license").

Why use OER?

Consumer price indexes for tuition and school-related items, not seasonally adjusted, January 2006–July 2016

January 2006=100

Legend:
— All items
— College tuition and fees
— Elementary and high school tuition and fees
— Childcare and nursery school
— Technical and business school tuition and fees
— Housing at school, excluding board
— College textbooks

Shaded area represents recession, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has impacted the average cost of college textbooks even more than tuition itself. When compared to the costs for other standard living expenses, the differences in rising costs is that much more striking.

Compared to the 200 goods followed by the national Consumer Price Index, which tracks inflation costs, the average cost of textbooks has increased by 812% since 1978. In comparison, medical expenses have increased by 575% over the same period of time, and new homes cost 325% more (bls.org).

Affordability and equity are core tenets of OER. By incorporating OER and other affordable materials into their curriculum, you can reduce the costs of course materials, making higher education more accessible to a wider array of students.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Open Education

In July 2020, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported a clarion call from students to "Diversify the Curriculum." At the same time, scholarship regarding diversifying the curriculum has moved away from suggestions of "tag on" content or "add-on" courses, to reviewing and transforming existing curriculum, essentially broadening the knowledge base for students and instructors alike.

Within the context of Open Education, diversifying the curriculum goes "beyond naming [diverse materials and academic experts] and explicitly binds equity outcomes to OER" (DOERS3, 2021). That is, rather than simply being pieces of OER initiatives, diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental to Open Education. In fact, OER has been cited as one means of "dismantl[ing] the structural barriers that students face in our institutions" of higher education (ATD, 2022).

That said, the consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion in OER is two-fold, first in terms of the curriculum itself and then in regard to student outcomes. On the one hand, using OER in the classroom affords faculty the opportunity to explore academic materials outside of their respective departments' traditional textbooks. Moreover, OER are remarkably flexible: faculty can update their chosen materials for their individual class environments and can also adjust these materials to better suit their students' needs between semesters or even during any given course.

OER also have the potential to improve student outcomes and close equity gaps in higher education. When course materials such as OER are affordable, high quality, easily accessible, and inclusive, case studies have shown that college students, and "especially the most under-represented students," benefit academically (OER Blueprint, 2021). The following slides expand on the many academic and financial benefits of OER for college students.

Pell Grant Eligible Students

In OER case studies by the University of Georgia (UGA) (2013) and the Achieving the Dream (ATD) community college study (2018), researchers used Pell Grant eligibility to measure the impact of using OER in high-enrollment general education courses.

UGA reported an increase in Pell-eligible students earning As and Bs and a significant decrease in Ds, Fs, and course withdrawals when OER were available. Likewise, forty-eight percent of the Pell-eligible participants in the ATD study self-reported that that OER made a profound impact on their ability to afford college.

At UofM, forty-seven percent of our undergraduate students are Pell Grant eligible. This indicates that, in many cases, students' expected household income is insufficient to pay for the entire costs of their college education. Based on the research, no-cost course material alternatives such as OER can keep education affordable for all our students.

**Pell Grant Status of
Degree Seeking Undergraduates
Fall 2021**

6,816
(47%)

7,767
(53%)

● No Pell ● Pell
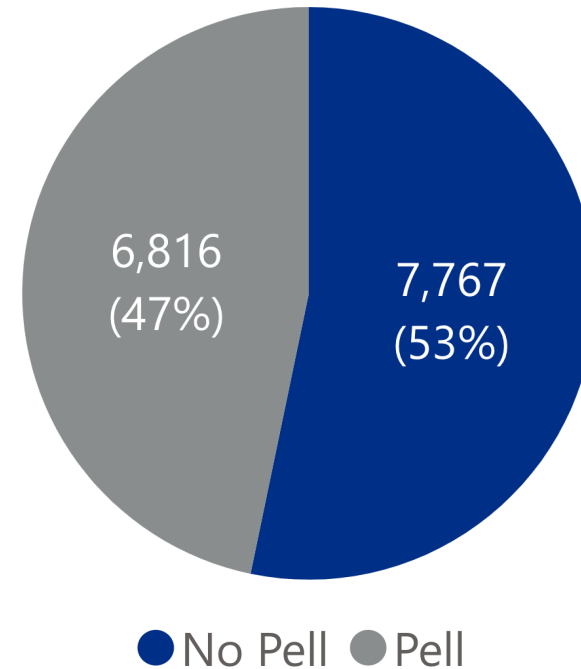
First Generation Students

First generation students are those individuals attending college whose parents do not have an undergraduate degree. Today, the majority of undergraduates are non-traditional students who hold full-time jobs, are over the age of 25, and/or are first-generation college students (Hutson et al., 2022).

Most first generation students are from low-income and minority backgrounds and face distinct challenges in completing their degrees (Hutson et al. 2022). For example, these students have a higher likelihood of carrying student debt - and more of it - than their "continuing generation" peers (Nusbaum et al., 2018).

Alleviating the cost of course materials for first generation students at UofM will make a profound impact on the student body, as thirty-three percent of our undergraduates are first generation college attendees.

First Generation Status of Degree Seeking Undergraduates

Fall 2021

67%

33%
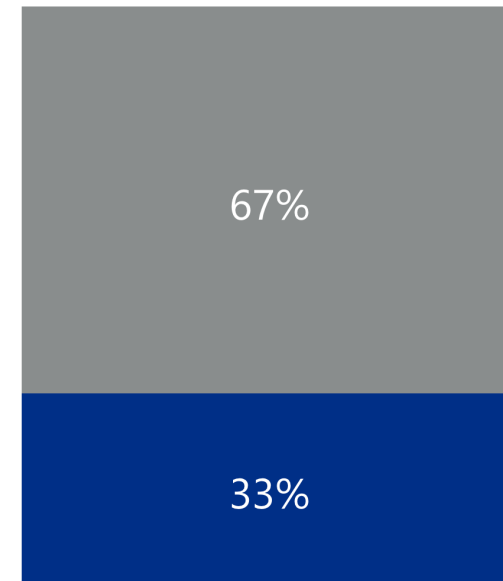
● First Generation ● Not First Generation

Student Success with OER

Course Grades

- Course grades remains the same or improves from semester to semester for students who use OER (Nusbaum et al. 2018)

- The benefits of OER are not limited to full-time students. At the University of Georgia, the implementation of OER in introductory undergraduate courses resulted in a 53% increase in average course grades and a 30% decrease in failing grades for part-time students (Colvard et al., 2018)

Student Retention

- In 6 of 11 community colleges of one OER study, students in OER courses registered for "significantly more course credits than those who had not taken any OER course" (SRI International, 2020)

Student GPA

- In a 2020 study, students who used OER in at least one of their college courses maintained their GPAs, even when registering for additional course credits (SRI International, 2020)

Tuition Afforability

- Data from an OER community college case study indicate that "48 percent of Pell Grant recipients and 52 percent of under-represented minorities" self-reported that using OER made a significant, positive impact on their ability to afford tuition (Ashford 2018)

- 41% of all other students agreed that OER positively contributed to their ability to pay for tuition (Ashford, 2018)

Understanding OER

OER Permissions

The 5 R's

    As the UNESCO definition of OER states, when using an OER you should have permission to access, use, adapt and redistribute it.

    The 5 Rs of OER define the types of permissions you should have when working with OER and that you should give to others if you create your own OER. These permissions are usually granted through Creative Commons open licenses, which will be introduced later in this guide.

Reuse: Content can be reused in its unaltered form

Retain: Users have the right to make, archive, and "own" copies of the content

Revise: Content can be adapted, adjusted, modified or altered

Remix: The original or revised content can be combined with other content to create something new

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

Image by BCOER Librarians from BCcampus (CC BY 4.0).

Options for Course Materials

The chart below indicates the level of freedom that users have to reuse educational materials based on whether they fall in the public domain, open education or copyright.

the spectrum of rights

Copyright
All Rights Reserved
• Re-use requires the permission from the copyright owner.

Creative Commons
Some Rights Reserved
• Re-use is permitted without permission under the specifications shared in the license.

Public Domain
No Rights Reserved
• May be used without permission.
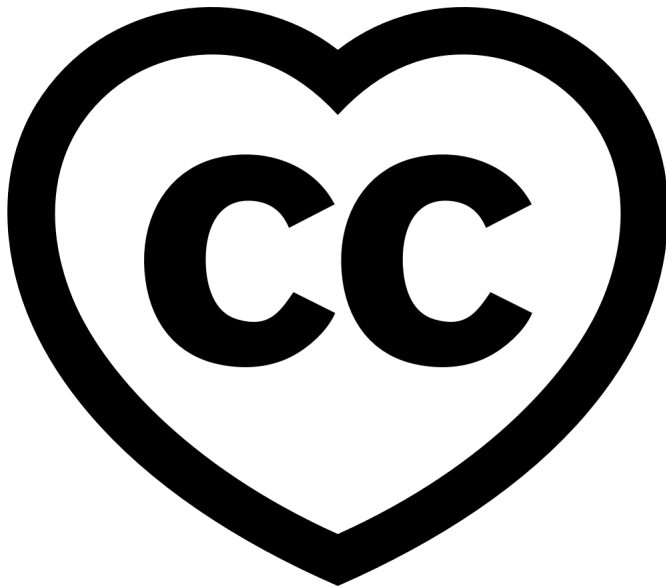
Creative Commons Licenses

Creative Commons (CC) licenses are at the very core of Open Educational Resources (OER). The benefits of OER are that you can use them in any way set forth by the 5Rs (retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute).

On the other hand, normal copyright protections do not allow for the sort of sharing and adaption that is intrinsic to OER, as they require you to actively seek permissions from the copyright owner to use or revise their materials. As such, OER are either shared with an open license such as Creative Commons or are part of the public domain.

By applying a CC license, creators allow their work to be used by others according to the 5Rs, and users know that as long as they follow the conditions of the license, they have perpetual permission to use the work. Keep in mind, though, that all OER with Creative Commons licenses require attribution to the original creator, unlike public domain works.

Creative Commons Licenses

	Copy & Publish	Attribution Required	Commercial Use	Modify & Adapt	Change License
Public Domain	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
BY Attribution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BY-SA Attribution ShareAlike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
BY-ND Attribution NoDerivs	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
BY-NC Attribution NonCommercial	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
BY-NC-SA Attrib NonComm ShareAlike	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
BY-NC-ND Attrib NonComm NoDerivs	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

"Creative Commons Licenses" by GW Libraries is used under a CC BY 4.0 license.

Creative Commons licenses are coded by the degrees of flexibility they offer to users. All CC licenses are built out of the following four elements:

BY Attribution: you can only use the work if the creator is credited.

NC Non-Commercial: you cannot use the work for commercial purposes.

ND No Derivatives: you cannot change or adapt the work.

SA Share Alike: you can make changes or adaptations, but the new version must be shared under the same license or a compatible license.

To fully be compliant with the 5Rs, an OER's license cannot include the ND No Derivatives element because it prevents revising and remixing of the original material(s).

The chart above shows the permissions and restrictions associated with each Creative Commons license as well as public domain works.

DISCOVERING OER

Locating Affordable Course Materials

There are many ways to find OER. Sites that host the OER are generally called repositories. Many will have some sort of review or acceptance process to determine what gets included. There are also specialized search engines that look through multiple OER repositories.

- OER Repositories: Much like library databases, OER repositories consist of thousands of resources that are available for free to instructors and students. Some of these repositories are hosted by independent educational organizations, while others are compilations of course materials from a particular university or based on a specific educational medium like audio or visual aids. Depending on the repository you choose, you may encounter differences in the following characteristics:
    - whether OER is validated by peer review or crowdsourced reviews
    - whether a user name and password are required to access the materials
    - which disciplines are covered within the repository
    - what OER formats are available (Word, PDF, HTML, etc.)
    - what types of materials are on hand (textbooks, syllabi, course assignments, practice exercises, etc.)

- Multimedia & Interactive Tools: Not all of these materials are strictly OER; instead, many are part of the public domain. Nonetheless, these websites can contribute free/affordable, quality course materials for college students. These include the following:
    - Videos, images, and other visual content
    - Audio recordings
    - Interactive STEM exercises
    - Massive Open Online Course (MOOC): entire OER courses that have been curated by other experts in your field

Quickstart Guides
to
OER Commons & Canvas Commons

Using OER Commons

Objectives

In this section, we will show you how to:

- Register with OER Commons.
- Search for OER materials.
- Use filters to narrow results.
- Create your own folder.
- Save materials to your folder.
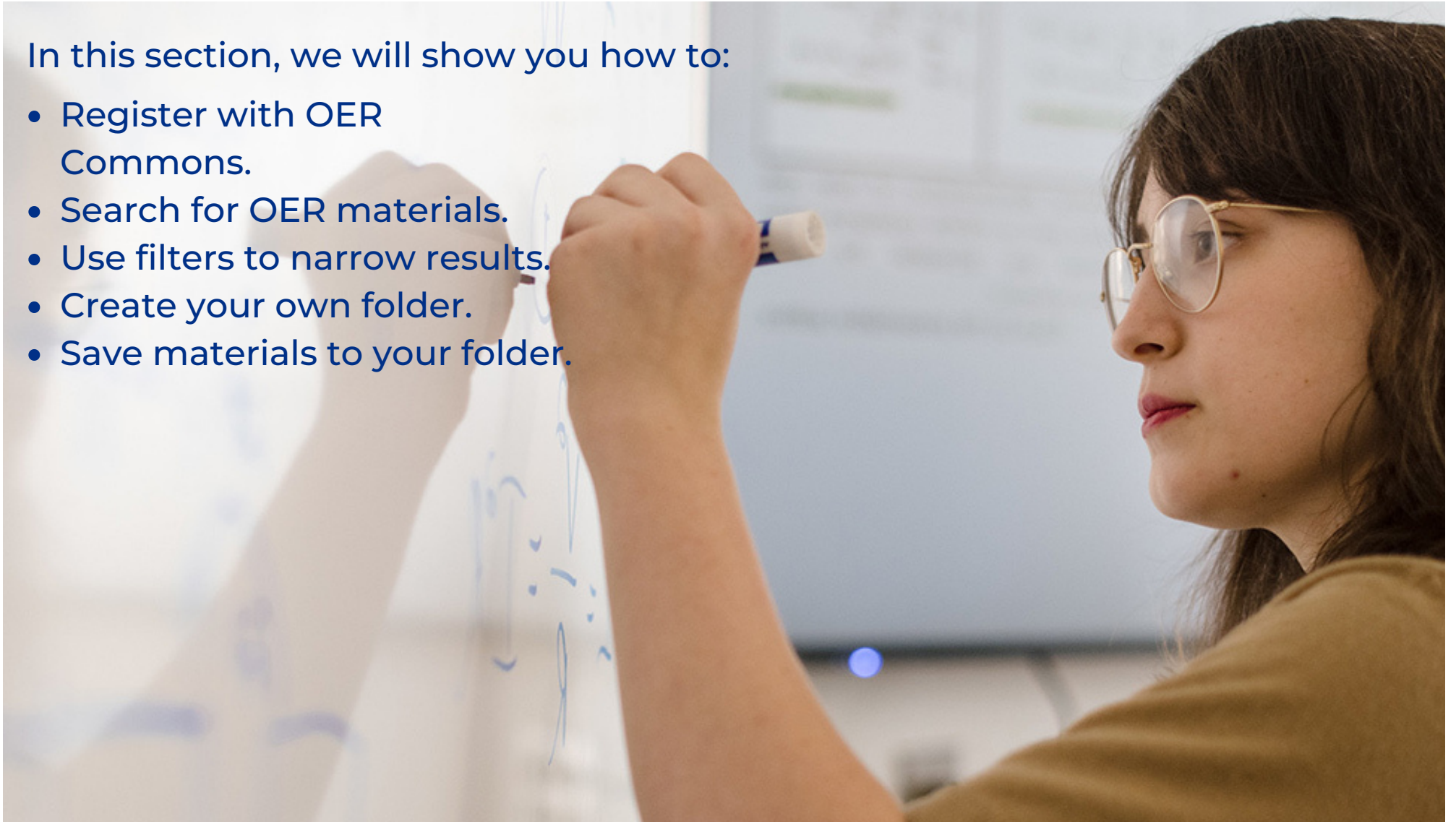
Registering for OER Commons

Step 1. Go to oercommons.org .
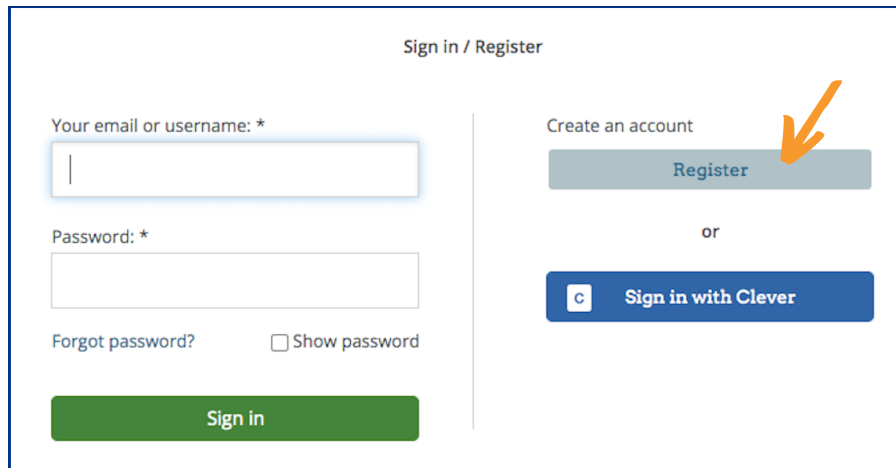
Step 2. Click **Sign In/Register.**

Registering for OER Commons

Step 3. Click **Register** or sign in with your credentials if you are already registered.

Sign in / Register

Your email or username: *

Create an account

Register

or

Password: *

Sign in with Clever

Forgot password?   ☐ Show password

Sign in

Step 4. Fill in the required information and click **Register** at the bottom of the form.

Registration

First name:*

Last name:*

Email:*

Enter your email address. This is used to confirm your registration, so please use a valid email address. We respect your privacy, and will not share your information with third parties.

Password:*

Minimum of five characters, case sensitive.

Confirm password:*

☐ Subscribe to the OER Commons Quarterly Newsletter

Prove that you are not a robot*
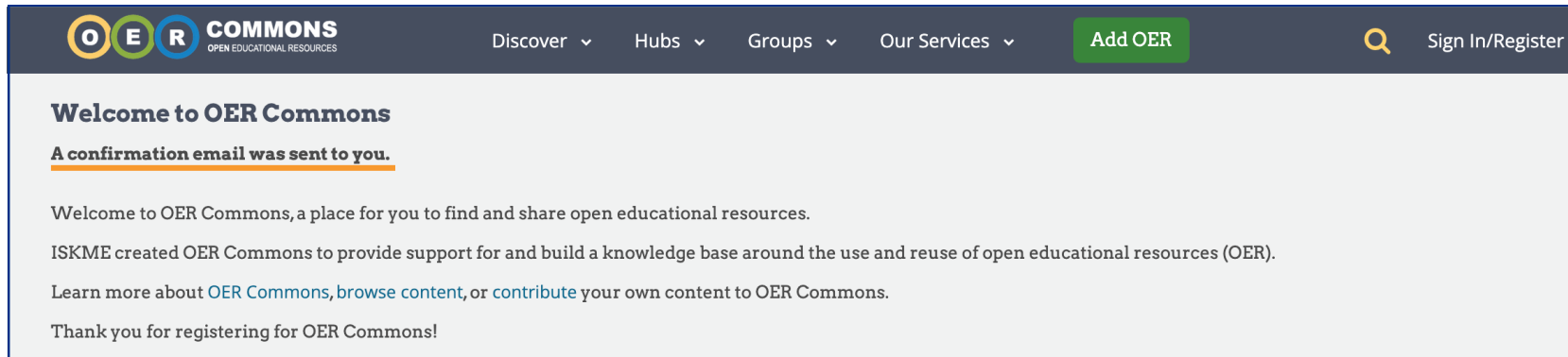
☐ I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Register

Registering for OER Commons

Step 5. You should receive a confirmation message as shown.
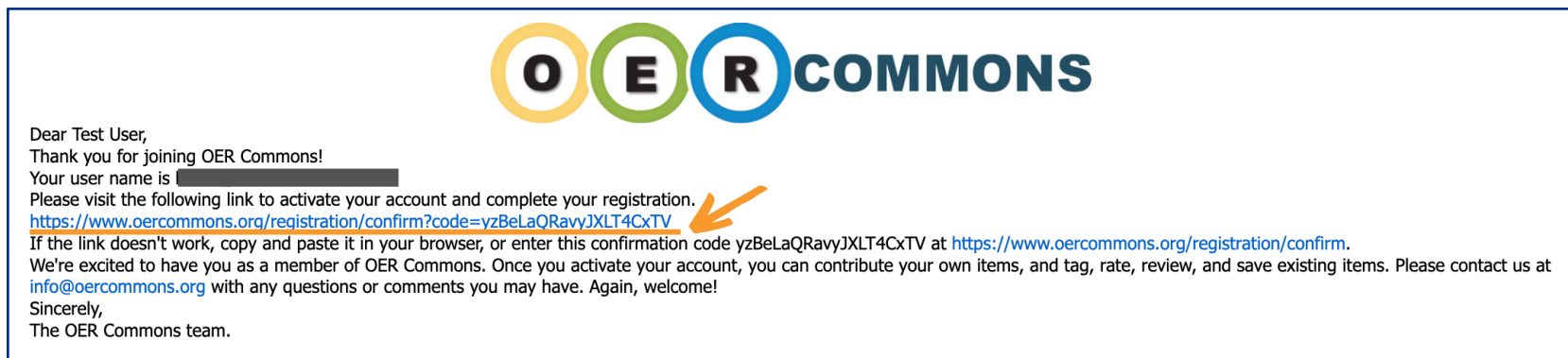
Step 6. Check for the confirmation email from OER Commons, and click the link provided.

Registering for OER Commons

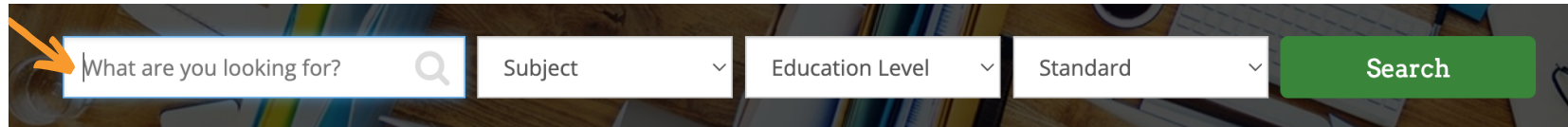## You should now be registered!

If registered properly, you will see an OER placeholder image (or your profile image if uploaded) in the upper-right corner.

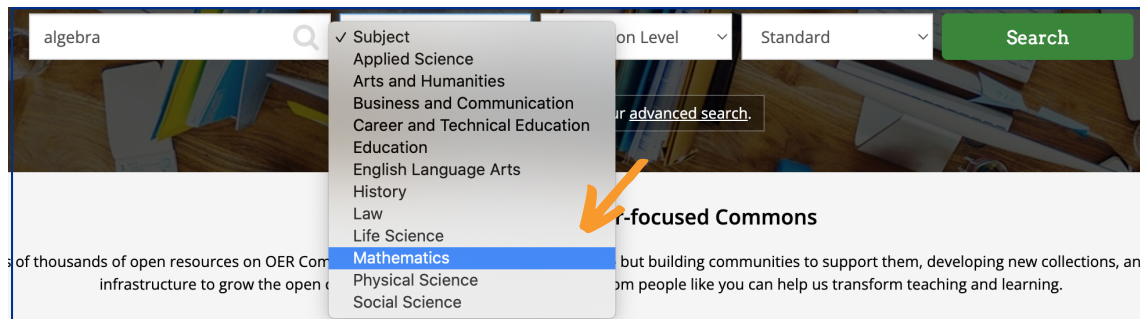Click this image to see a drop-down menu of options for managing your OER materials, profile information, and more.
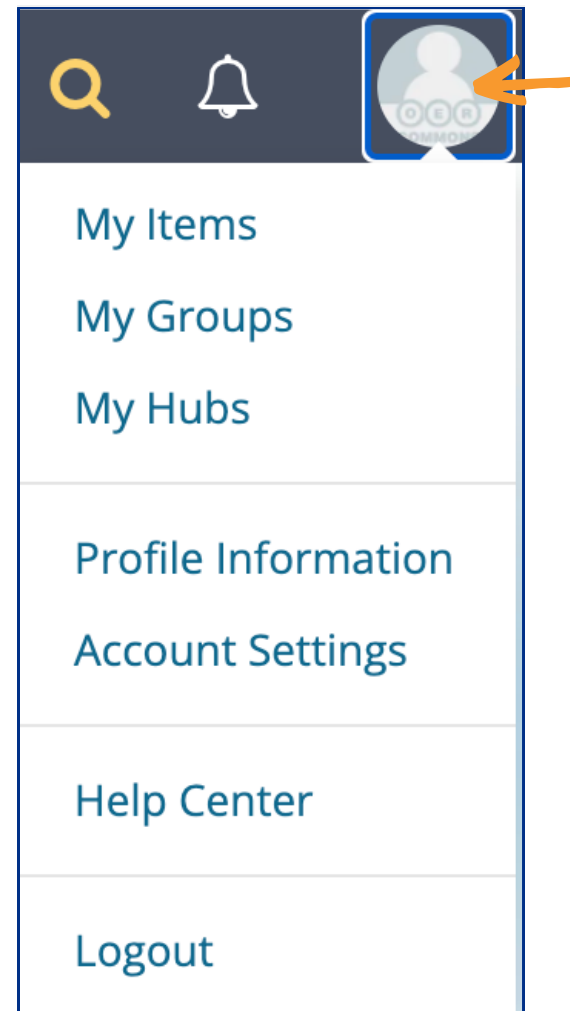
Searching for OER Materials

Step 1. Let's try this together. In the "What are you looking for?" search field, type the word **algebra.**

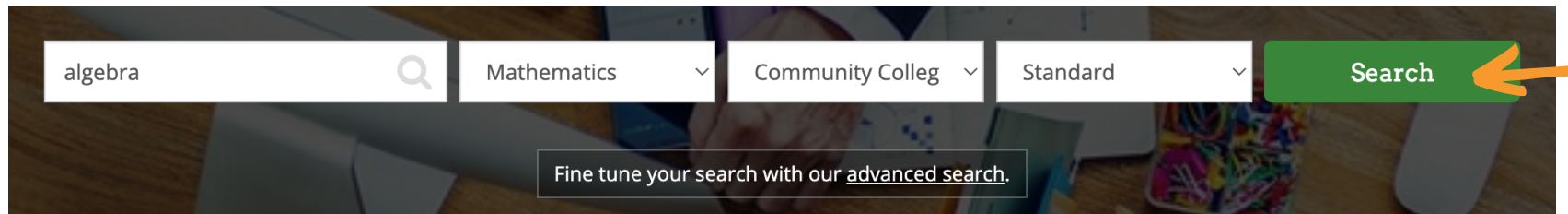**Step 2.** Click the "Subject" drop-down menu and select **Mathematics.**

Subject
Applied Science
Arts and Humanities
Business and Communication
Career and Technical Education
Education
English Language Arts
History
Law
Life Science
Mathematics
Physical Science
Social Science

of thousands of open resources on OER Com... ...but building communities to support them, developing new collections, and infrastructure to grow the open ... ...om people like you can help us transform teaching and learning.

r-focused Commons

Step 3. Click the "Subject" drop-down menu and select **Community College / Lower Division.**

Education Level
Preschool
Lower Primary
Upper Primary
Middle School
High School
Community College / Lower Division
College / Upper Division
Graduate / Professional
Career / Technical
Adult Education

Support a vibrant,

ens of thousands of open resources on OER Commons are free - and they will... ...port them, developing new collections, and
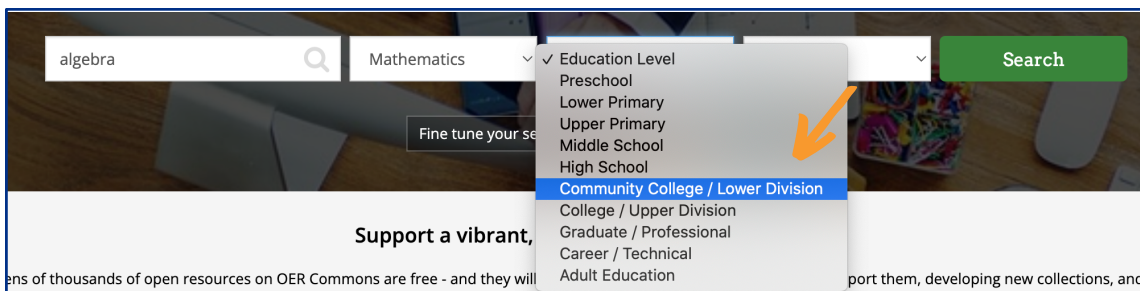
Tiger Tip:
Community College / Lower Division usually returns the most results.

Searching for Materials in OER Commons

Step 4. We don't need any specific standards, so you can leave that field as "Standard" and click **Search.**
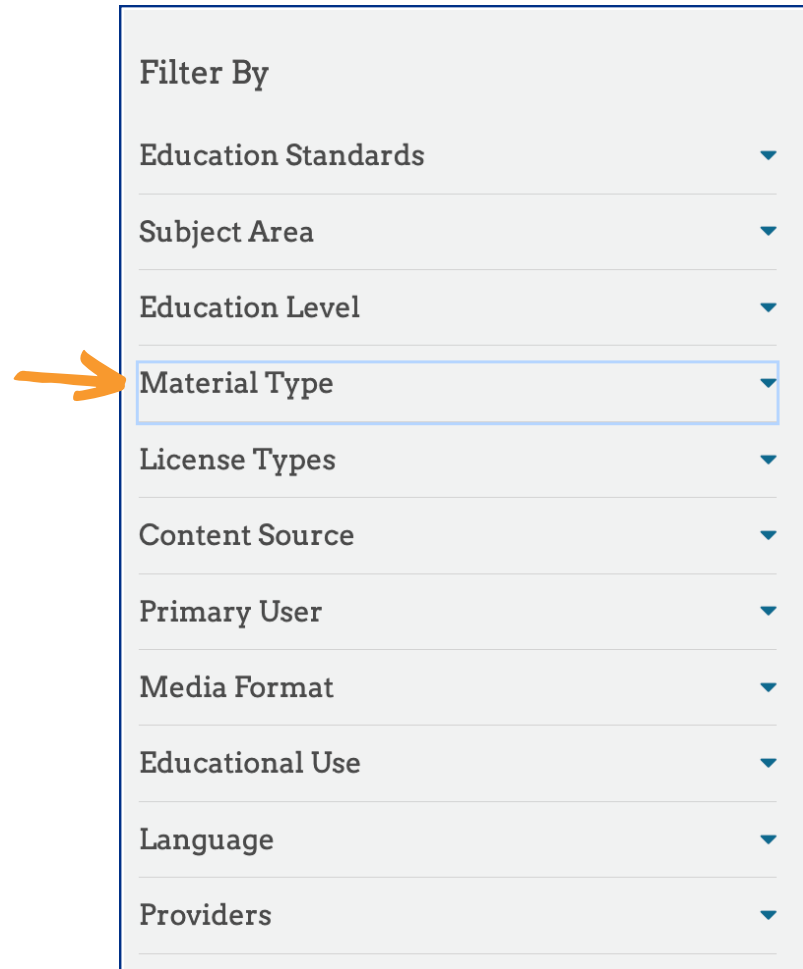

algebra | Mathematics ▾ | Community Colleg ▾ | Standard ▾ | **Search**

Fine tune your search with our *advanced search*.

Step 5. You should see a page that looks like this at the top. Take a moment to explore this page online, especially the filters on the left.

Search Resources

algebra | **Search** | Advanced Search

Filter By

Education Standards ▾

Subject Area ▲

- Applied Science
- Business and Communication
- Career and Technical Education
- Education
- History

294 **Results**

☐ | Per page [20 ▾] | Sort By [Relevance ▾] | View ○ ☰

Selected filters: ⊗ Community College / Lower Division ⊗ Mathematics

☐ **Elementary Algebra**
Rating ★★★★☆

It is essential to lay a solid foundation in mathematics if a ... More

Subject: Algebra Material Type: Textbook Provider: The Saylor Foundation Provider Set: Saylor Textbooks Author: John Redden

Filtering Your Search Results in OER Commons

Step 1. OER Commons allows you to filter your search based on different criteria. For example, you can filter by "Material Type."
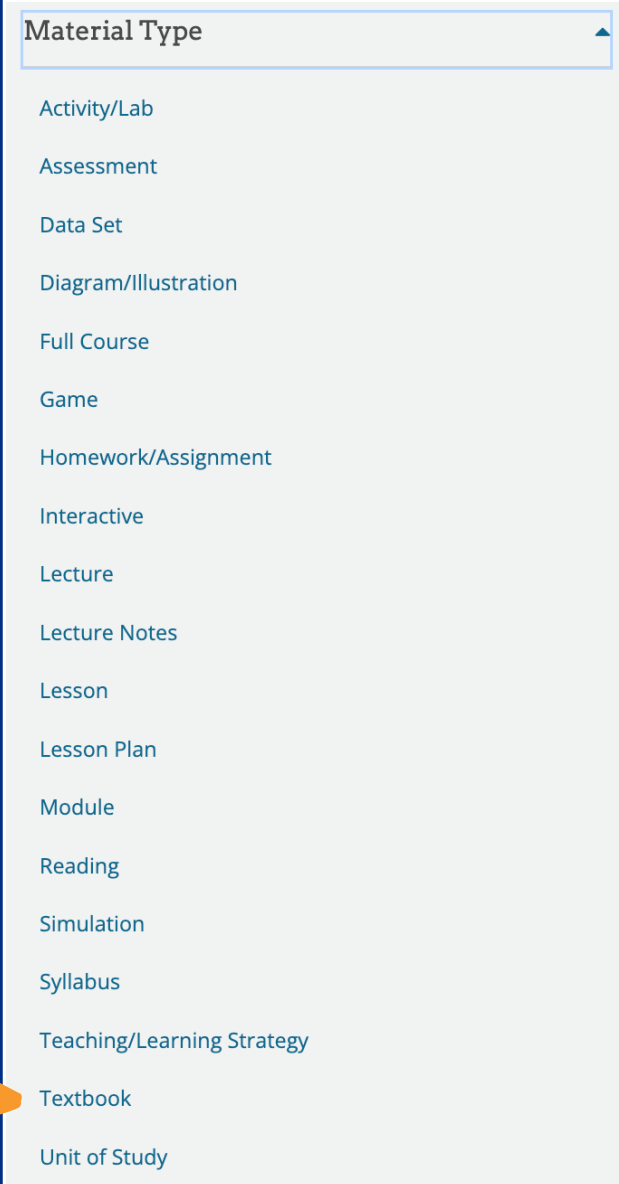
Let's try that now. Click **Material Type.**

Filter By

Education Standards ▼

Subject Area ▼

Education Level ▼

Material Type ▼

License Types ▼

Content Source ▼

Primary User ▼

Media Format ▼

Educational Use ▼

Language ▼

Providers ▼

Filtering Your Search Results in OER Commons

Step 2. As shown here, this will open a list of material types from which you can choose to filter your results.

For practice, click **Textbook.**

Material Type ▲
Activity/Lab
Assessment
Data Set
Diagram/Illustration
Full Course
Game
Homework/Assignment
Interactive
Lecture
Lecture Notes
Lesson
Lesson Plan
Module
Reading
Simulation
Syllabus
Teaching/Learning Strategy
Textbook
Unit of Study

Filtering Your Search Results in OER Commons

Step 3. Notice how the results have narrowed further to show community college / lower division math textbooks. Take some time to familiarize yourself with the other filters, especially those you might use often.

Filter By

- Education Standards ▼
- Subject Area ▼
- Education Level ▼
- Material Type ▲
  - Activity/Lab
  - Assessment
  - Full Course
  - Homework/Assignment
  - Interactive
  - Lecture
  - Lecture Notes
  - Reading
  - Syllabus
  - **Textbook**
- License Types ▼
- Content Source ▼

Search results: algebra *(80)*

Per page [20 ▾]   Sort By [Relevance ▾]   View ○ ☰
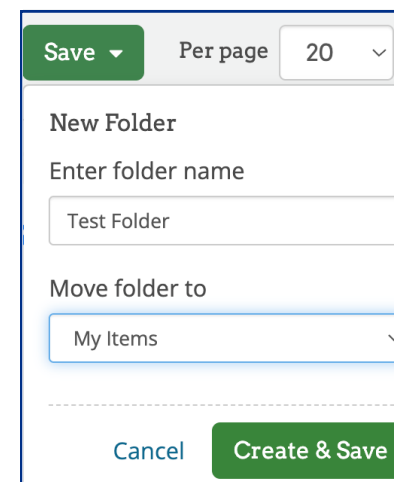
Selected filters: ⊗ Community College / Lower Division   ⊗ Mathematics   ⊗ Textbook

Elementary Algebra
Rating ★★★★☆

It is essential to lay a solid foundation in mathematics if a ... More

Subject: Algebra Material Type: Textbook Provider: The Saylor Foundation Provider Set: Saylor Textbooks Author: John Redden Date Added: 02/22/2011

Linear Algebra with Applications
Rating ☆☆☆☆☆

After being traditionally published for many years, this formidable text by W. ...

More

Subject: Algebra Material Type: Textbook Provider: Lyryx Learning Author: W. Keith Nicholson Date Added: 01/17/2018

Introductory Algebra
Rating ☆☆☆☆☆

This textbook is aligned with the British Columbia Adult Basic Education learning

🐾 **Tiger Tip:**

You can easily remove any filters you've added by clicking the circled "x" to the left of each filter.

Saving Materials in OER Commons

Step 1. To save OER materials to a folder, click the checkbox next to the item and click **Save.**

Search results: algebra *(80)*
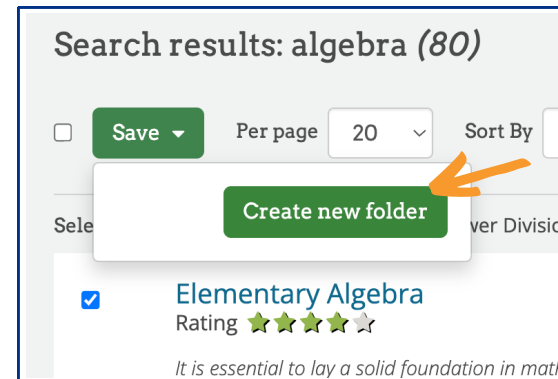
☐ Save ▾ Per page [20 ▾] Sort By [Relevance ▾] View ◯

Selected filters: ⊗ Community College / Lower Division ⊗ Mathematics ⊗ Textbook

☑ **Elementary Algebra**
Rating ★★★★☆

It is essential to lay a solid foundation in mathematics if a ... More

Subject: Algebra Material Type: Textbook Provider: The Saylor
Foundation Provider Set: Saylor Textbooks Author: John Redden
Date Added: 02/22/2011

☐ **Linear Algebra with Applications**
Rating ★★★★★

*After being traditionally published for many years, this formidable text by
W. ...*

More

Subject: Algebra Material Type: Textbook Provider: Lyryx Learning
Author: W. Keith Nicholson Date Added: 01/17/2018

Step 2. In the popup, click **Create new folder.**

Search results: algebra *(80)*

☐ Save ▾ Per page [20 ▾] Sort By

Create new folder

Sele ─── ver Divisio

☑ **Elementary Algebra**
Rating ★★★★☆

It is essential to lay a solid foundation in math

Step 3. Next, type your new folder name, select where to move your folder, and click **Create & Save.**

Save ▾ Per page [20 ▾]

New Folder
Enter folder name
[Test Folder]

Move folder to
[My Items ▾]

Cancel   Create & Save

Locating Your Saved Materials in OER Commons

Step 1. To find the folder you just created, click your profile image (or OER placeholder image).

Step 2. Select **My Items.**
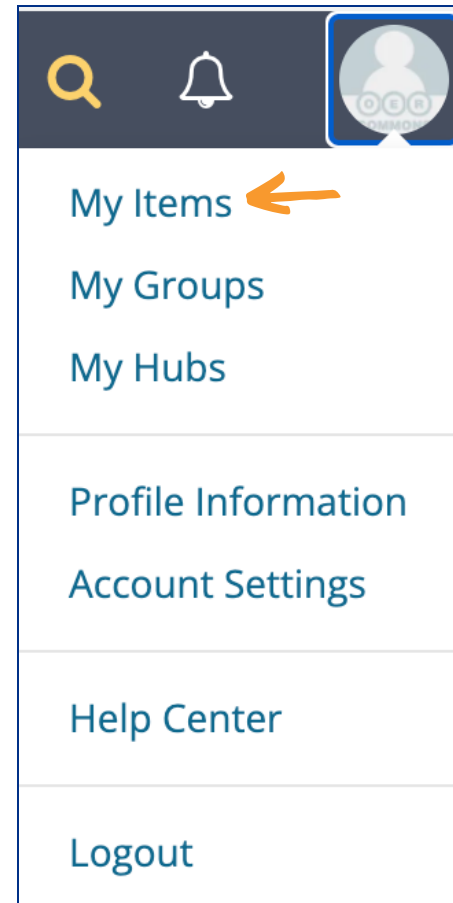
🐾 **Tiger Tip:**

Create a Group to share materials among colleagues.

Locating Your Saved Materials in OER Commons

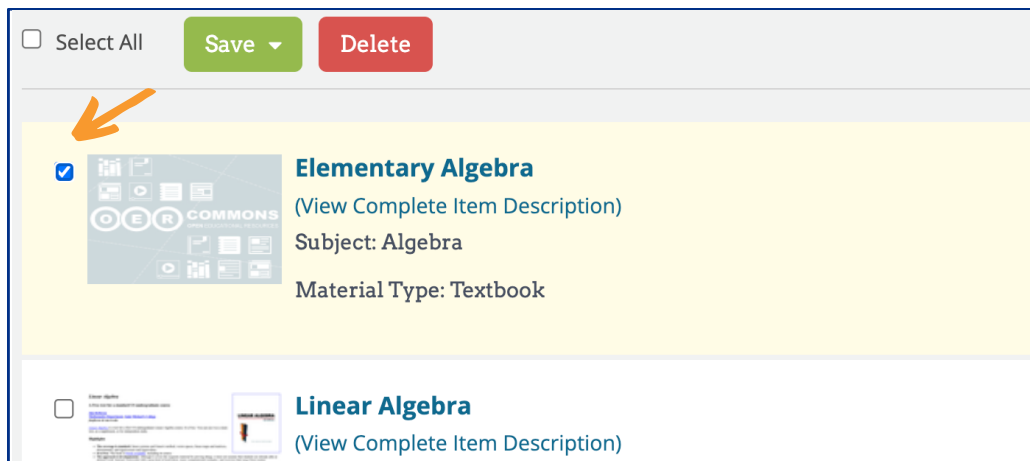**Step 3.** The algebra textbook can be found in the Test Folder.

Step 4. Click the checkbox next to your textbook to select it.

Step 4. From here, you can:

- **Delete** the textbook from the current folder.
- **Save**/copy the textbook to a to a different folder.
- Create a new folder.

Using Canvas Commons

Objectives

In this section, we will show you how to:

- Access Canvas Commons.
- Search for OER materials.
- Use filters to narrow results.
- View and save OER materials.
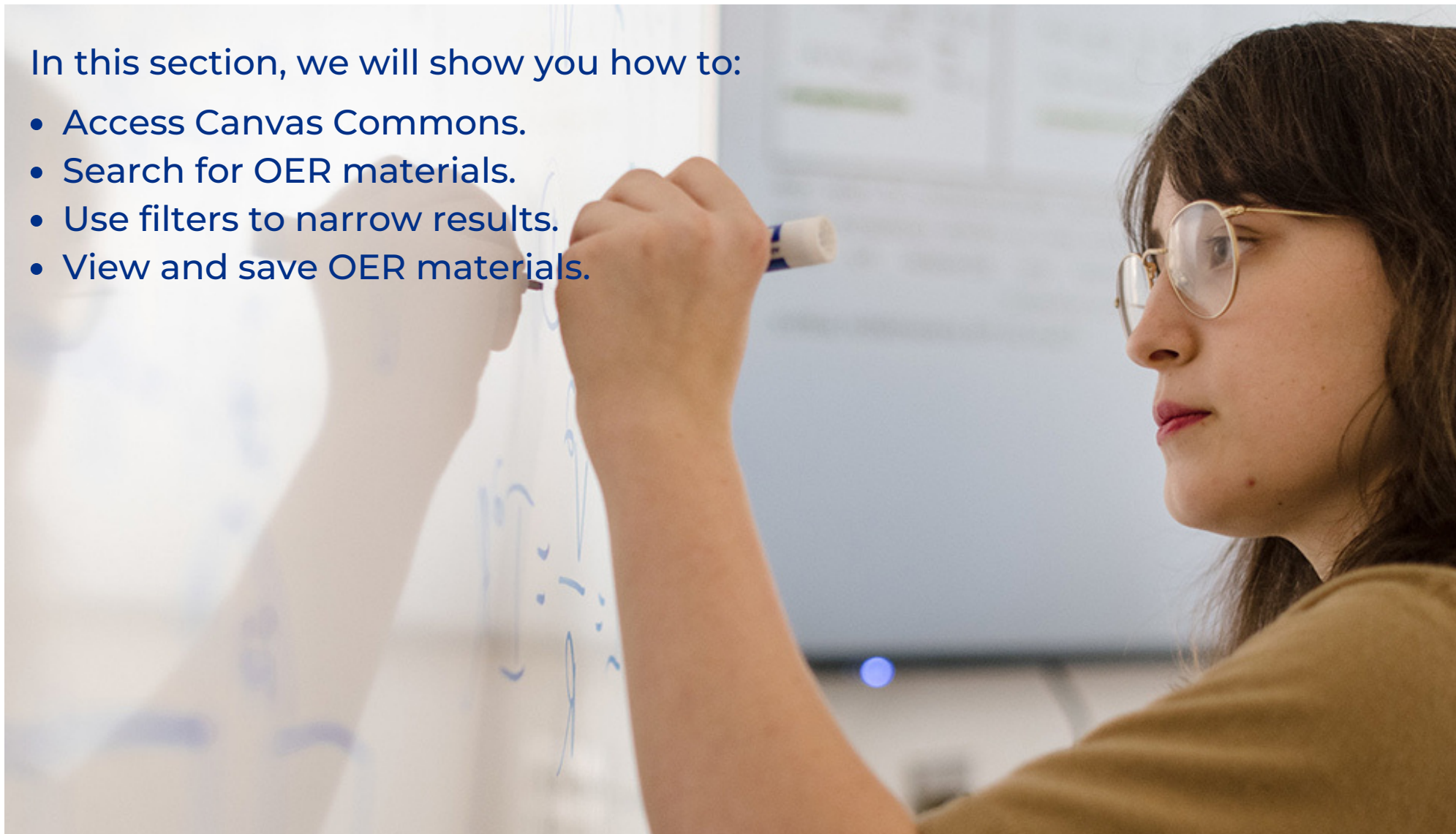
Searching for OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 1. Go to your Canvas Dashboard and click the **Commons** icon.
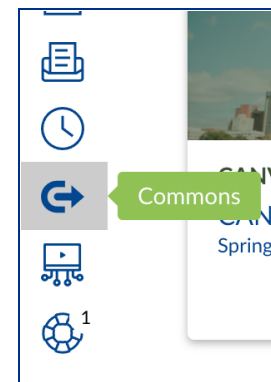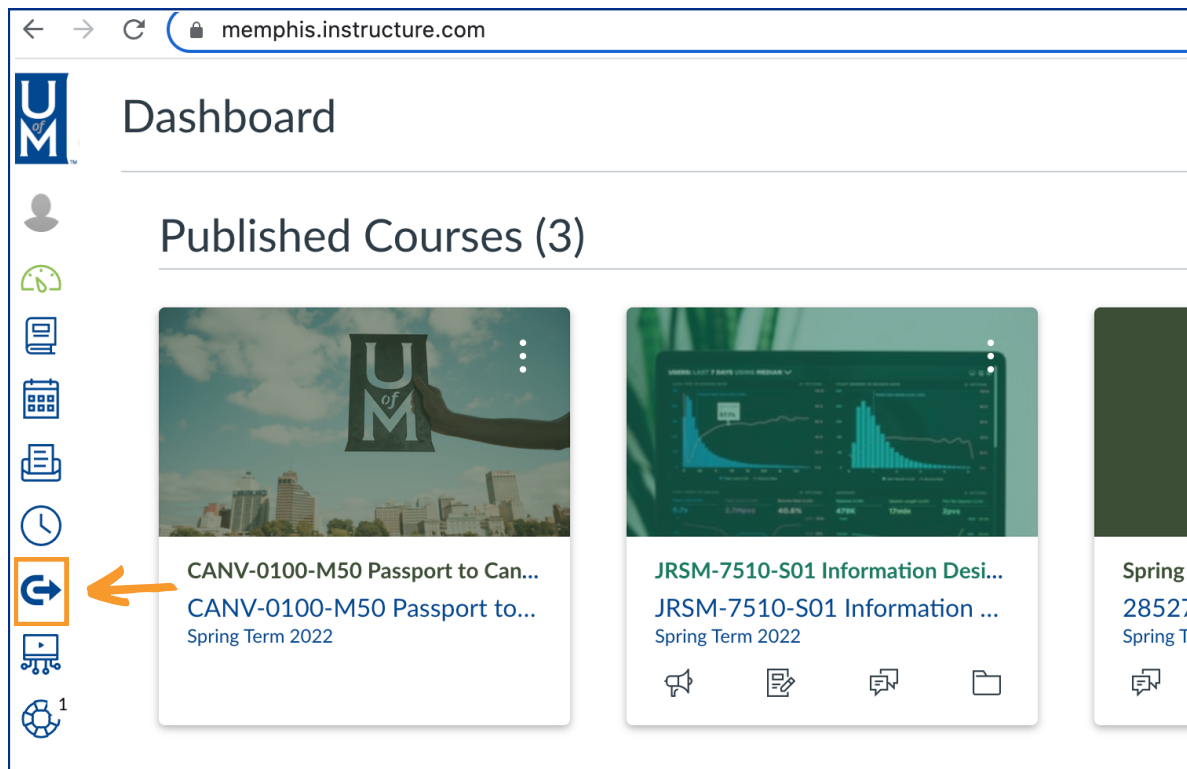
Tiger Tip:

Hover over the icons on your dashboard to see their text labels.

Searching for OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 2. Let's look for an English undergraduate course. Type **English Composition** in the search field.

Searching for OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 3. Next, you can choose how you'd like to sort your results. For practice, click to open the drop-down menu, then select **Most Relevant.**

Filtering Your Search Results in Canvas Commons

Step 1. To see all the options for filtering your results, click **Filter.**

Filtering Your Search Results in Canvas Commons

Step 2. A popup will appear with your filter options.

For practice, click the **Courses** icon and select additional filters as shown.

When finished, click **X** to close the popup.

× Filter Results

View only these types

COURSES MODULES ASSIGNMENTS QUIZZES DISCUSSIONS

PAGES DOCUMENTS VIDEOS AUDIO IMAGES

Content Types NEW

☐ Templates
☑ Open Textbooks

Grade/Levels

☐ Kindergarten   ☐ 8th grade
☐ 1st grade   ☐ 9th grade
☐ 2nd grade   ☐ 10th grade
☐ 3rd grade   ☐ 11th grade
☐ 4th grade   ☐ 12th grade
☐ 5th grade   ☑ Undergraduate
☐ 6th grade   ☐ Graduate
☐ 7th grade

Shared With

◉ All (Includes Public Resources)
○ University of Memphis

Filtering Your Search Results in Canvas Commons

Step 3. As you can see below, our results have changed, and the filter options we chose are listed. Click **First Year Composition** to view that course.

Saving OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 1. Here, you can view the course, import it into one of your Canvas courses, download it, add it to your favorites, or copy a link to it. Let's practice one of these. Click **Add to Favorites.**

Saving OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 2.   As you can see below, the course has been added to the "Favorites" page.

Search   Shared   Imported   Updates (0)   **Favorites**

, name, institution or tag   Latest

COURSE

First-Year Composition

Undergraduate

Matthew

↓ 116   ☆ 83

🐾 Tiger Tip:

You can tell which page is active by the treatment of the menu bar links. Here, Favorites is black and underlined, because that's the page we're on now.

Saving OER Materials in Canvas Commons

Step 3. If you want to remove materials from your Favorites page, simply click **Remove from Favorites.**

Conclusion. Now that you are familiar with how to navigateOER Commons and Canvas Commons, you can explore the suggestions on the following page for multimedia OER and public domain materials.

Multimedia Resources

YouTube

www.youtube.com

   To filter your search results in YouTube to those videos with Creative Commons licenses, follow these steps:
- On your results page, click on the "Filters" tab just to the bottom left of the search bar.
- In the menu that appears, click on "Creative Commons" under the "Features" column.
- To make certain your chosen video is appropriately licensed, go to the video's page and check for the license in the notes section under the video.

Creative Commons

creativecommons.org

   If you need OER audio or images, follow these directions:
- From the Creative Commons homepage, click on the "Search for CC Images" link just to the right of the magnifying glass.
- You will be redirected to WordPress.org, Creative Commons's new hosting site for audio and visual OER.
- Enter your keywords into the search bar.
- From there, you can filter your results by CC license, file type, and even aspect ratio.

Google

www.google.com

   For access to Google content with Creative Commons licenses, use the following steps to conduct an advanced search:
- On the bottom right of the Google homepage, click "Settings."
- In the pop up menu that appears, click "Advanced Search."
- Once the Advanced Search page loads, scroll down to the "usage rights" line.
- From there, choose the appropriate filter for the type of results you need, primarily whether you intend to modify the content of the OER you find or if you simply want to use it.

Desmos

www.desmos.com

   For faculty whose students need access to calculators & math exercises, Desmos offers free access to:
- accessible online graphing & scientific calculators (under the "Math Tools" dropdown menu at the top of the page)
- course landing pages for faculty & students
- practice exercises
- lesson assessments

   Once you have registered for your free account, you can browse for course materials and assessments.

Additional Recommended OER

TBR & UofM OER Collaborations

MERLOT

MERLOT is a well-known OER repository similar to OER Commons. For a guide to more information about the TBR MERLOT members and materials, use the QR code or URL posted below.

https://bit.ly/39Imq6I

OER LISTSERV

The Tennessee Board of Regents hosts an OER listserv for ongoing OER conversations across the state of Tennessee, please contact Ryan Korstange at ryan.korstange@tn.gov to be added to the OER listserv.

OER Commons

For the UofM's OER Commons homepage, focus your mobile camera lens on the QR code below and tap on the banner that appears to access the online OER Guide. use the QR code or URL posted below or copy and paste the URL into your browser.

https://bit.ly/3HFIe0H

Reflections on OER

Reflection is a powerful reminder of the knowledge and skills we have acquired during the learning process. In the black spaces below, take the time to reflect on the prompts and record your answers.

Write out your observations about the benefits of using OER in your courses.	Consider potential hurdles you may encounter in searching for OER and who you can ask for help.	Write down the name(s) of any OER you found that is/are usable in classes you teach.

Incorporating OER

Building Your OER Course

   Congratulations! You have already learned how to locate, filter, and save your OER in both OER Commons and Canvas Commons. Now that you have selected your course materials, you must be wondering how to deliver OER to your students.

   To access an outstanding compilation of step-by-step guides and videos that will teach you how to build OER into your Canvas course shell(s), please focus your mobile camera lens on each QR code below and tap on the banner that appears to open the webpage where Canvas help is located. You may also access the same information by copying and pasting the URL at the bottom of the page into your browser if you are reading this document online.

   If you need continued assistance with designing an OER course or incorporating OER into your Canvas course shell, please contact UM3D at UM3D@memphis.edu.

First Day of Class

Once you've chosen to use OER in your course, it is also a good idea to inform your students about your decision. While they will certainly appreciate free course materials, they will also need to know where and how to access them. Furthermore, by assuring your students that you have carefully evaluated the selected materials, you will assure them that their reduced costs do not equate a loss of quality in course instruction.

For the first day of class, consider covering the benefits of using OER with your students, whether on a slide deck if teaching in person or an embedded introductory video if teaching online. The QR code on the previous page will direct you to the webpage where a sample "First Day of Class PowerPoint" presentation is hosted under the heading "Introducing Your Students to OER."

Day One Access – download OER for free TODAY

Read anytime, anywhere, from any device, on- or off-line

Print what you want, whenever you want, if you want

Content specific to the learning outcomes of our course

Ongoing access to OER, even after the course is over

Evaluating OER

Evaluation Criteria

When considering the adoption of OER into college classrooms, faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants first need to consider various factors about the materials that could impact student usage. Providing free materials without first evaluating their content would undermine the very purpose of OER, which is to provide quality, accessible, and inclusive course materials for all students.

Quality

The quality of OER is "inextricably bound" to student equity ("Equity Blueprint"). As such, accuracy and quality should impact your decision to integrate a particular OER into your course. Often, faculty resist using OER because of the theoretical lack of academic rigor applied to its creation, but many OER repositories have some form of quality control. This usually falls comes in one of two forms:
- Peer Review
- Crowdsourcing

Additionally, the relevance of OER to the course content is indisputable. That said, before latching onto a particular resource, make sure that it covers your course objectives. Don't waste your or your students' time listing an OER in your syllabus that you haven't fully explored to make sure it matches your course content.

Quality

Accessibility   Inclusivity

Evaluation Criteria

Accessibility

In terms of accessibility, instructors should remember to keep the following details in mind:

- If the OER you've chosen requires users to open an account to the repository where it is housed, you need to inform your students and lead them through the process of setting up their accounts and accessing the material(s).

- As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded teachers across the globe, not all students have access to high speed internet. Try to balance your use of large files or multimedia that requires broadband internet with html links and smaller files.

- Lastly, teaching faculty need to keep considerations for students with disabilities at the forefront of their curriculum choices. For those who require additional assistance with accessibility standards, the UofM Disability Resources for Students office is available for consultation; they have also added videos to their website that demonstrate how faculty can access the DRS portal for their students who are registered with the office.

Quality

Accessibility

Inclusivity

Evaluation Criteria

Inclusivity

As standards for OER, the tenets of quality, accessibility, and inclusivity intersect. For example, the implementation of high quality OER contributes to student equity by giving all students access to the same excellent, affordable course materials. Highly accessible OER likewise ensures these materials are available to students regardless of factors such as language fluency, literacy, disability, access to the internet and other technologies, or even learning styles.

The very nature of OER is such that educational materials are, first, available to the widest possible array of students and, second, that they are reusable and remixable, thereby affording that many more students access to a quality, affordable education. The freedoms implicit to OER grant you permission to adapt OER for your courses, whether by adjusting the content to better align with the cultural environment of your students, translating the materials on your students' behalf, or altering the materials for broader accessibility. This learner-centered approach to OER not only promotes the tenets of Open Education in general, it also ensures that faculty are "teaching students – not [just] content" (DOERS3, 2021).

Quality

Accessibility

Inclusivity

OER Rubrics

    Dozens of OER rubrics are readily available to you on the web. They vary widely in terms of length and criteria, but most primarily focus on educational quality and/or accessibility standards. While it would be impossible to provide a comprehensive overview of each rubric here, the University Libraries' OER Guide includes a thorough explanation of the many criteria faculty may need to consider prior to incorporating OER into their courses. The QR codes below will direct you to pages of the guide where some of the OER rubrics are loosely organized by quality and accessibility. Please focus your mobile camera lens on each QR code and tap on the banner that appears to open these pages individually. You may also copy and paste the URLs at the bottom of the page into your browser if you are accessing this document online.

Quality

Accessibility

libguides.memphis.edu/open_education/evaluatingOER

libguides.memphis.edu/open_education/evaluatingOER/accessibility

OER ASSISTANCE

[Carl Hess](#) **First Year Experience Librarian**	[Jessica McClure](#) **Virtual Instruction Librarian**	[UM3D](#) **Instructional Design and Technology**
Email: carl.hess@memphis.edu Phone: 901.678.8209	Email: jmcclre3@memphis.edu Phone: 901.678.4484	Email: UM3D@memphis.edu Phone: 901.678.2935
Carl is passionate about first-year and first-generation student experiences and needs. As such, he has become University Libraries' OER specialist, particularly in regard to locating and evaluating OER. Please contact Carl via email to set up an appointment to meet with him via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, a telephone call, or in-person.	Jessica is responsible for University Libraries' digital Research & Instructional content. With a background in teaching high school special education students, Jessica is also familiar with educational accessibility standards and can help faculty deliver OER through a variety of mediums that will improve the overall accessibility of their courses.	As the resident Instructional Design and Technology experts on campus, the staff members of UM3D are prepared to assist faculty with any of your Canvas or Canvas Commons needs. UM3D staffers are available via virtual consultations. Please write to their collective email listed above or make an appointment from the following link: https://appt.link/um3d

CONTINUED OER LEARNING

Focus your mobile camera lens on this QR code and tap on the banner that appears to access the online OER Guide.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS ®

You may also copy and past the URL below into your browser to open the OER Guide if you are accessing this document online.

libguides.memphis.edu/open_education

References

DOERS3. (2021, July 13). The OER Equity Blueprint: The Role of OER in Advancing Equity. https://www.doers3.org/oer-equity-blueprint.html