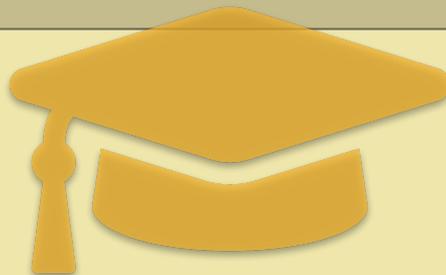


# OER

Open Educational Resources



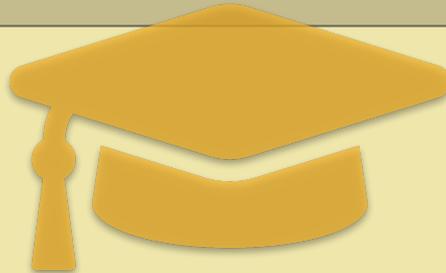
<http://bit.ly/OER-Sherwood>

Prepared for the chairs of IUP  
Humanities and Social Sciences (Feb 2018)  
On behalf of CHSS Digital Projects and the  
IUP Center for Digital Humanities and Culture



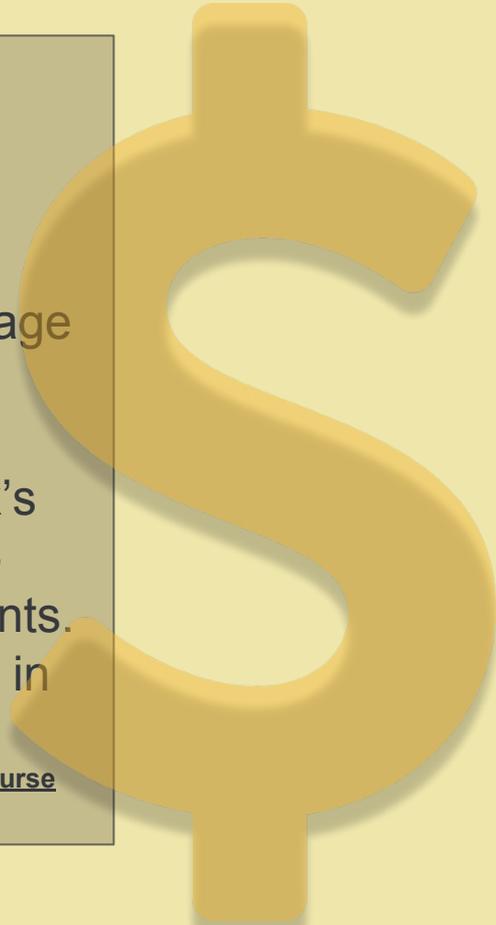
[www.iupdhc.org](http://www.iupdhc.org)

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"The College Board's Trends in Higher Education estimates that this year's average public four-year, in-state undergraduate student's costs for books and supplies is \$1,160. In 2015, nine of the [OT] network's early member institutions reported a \$1.5 million savings in textbook costs to students. In 2016, that number grew to \$3.1 million in student savings."

(Penn State joining Open Textbook Network to support affordable course content.)



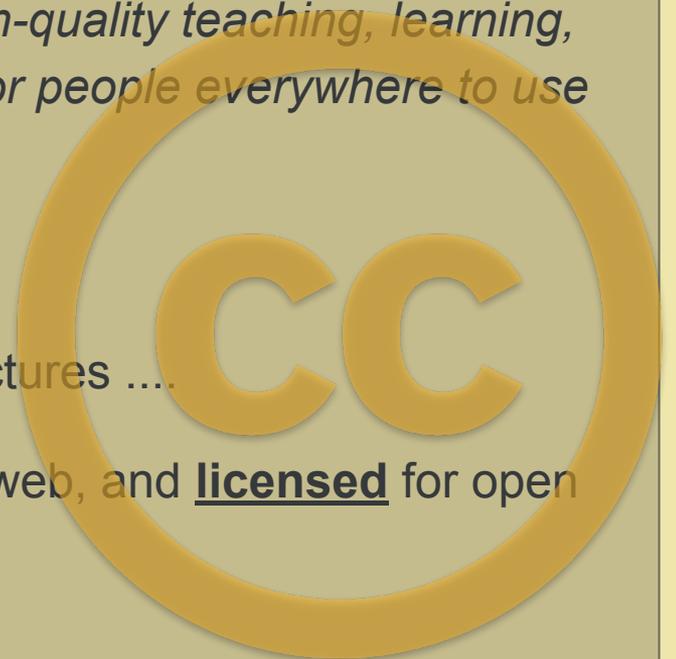
# What

Def: *Open Educational Resources (OER). . . are high-quality teaching, learning, and research materials that are free [and licensed] for people everywhere to use and repurpose. \**

Higher Education - **TEXTBOOKS**

But also video, audio, learning activities, lectures ....

Any resources made **accessible**, especially via the web, and **licensed** for open use and adaptation (ex. Creative Commons).



# Who

Motivated students (globally) take advantage of OER

Institutions may sponsor development of OER, from texts and presentations, to semester-long courses or entire degree programs (MIT Open Courseware)

Faculty may:

1. Selectively incorporate OER into courses
2. Share their own OER
3. Adopt quality OER texts produced by others as a substitute for traditional publisher textbooks.

# Why

**COST Savings**: An OER textbook is available to the students at **NO CHARGE** (beyond the necessity of their laptop, tablet, or e-reader).

**CUSTOMIZATION**: Like the traditional course-pack, OER course materials can be selected and combined for specific teaching purposes.

**OER are *not necessarily* "digital"**! Electronic texts are common, but licensing allows for OER to be reproduced on paper for the cost of xeroxes (no copyright fees) or provided to students in several formats.

**Intellectual Property**. Reuse, copying, and adaptation are legally permitted by the creators of OER (by definition)

# How

1. **Identify** availability of materials for a given course or discipline. (IUP Libraries will assist)
2. **Evaluate quality of materials**
3. **Assess format** and adoption tradeoffs (Is the material equally accessible on a variety of devices, including mobile, tablets, and laptops?)
4. **Weigh opportunities** and challenges in selecting or compiling custom materials.

# Issues

1. Finding - There are many repositories, but no one-stop-shop for OER
2. Quality - Faculty assume added responsibility for evaluating accuracy, relevance, etc. which publishers typically assume for traditional resources.\*
3. Publisher support - Self tests, study sites, and other "bells & whistles" are not "bundled" with the product

## \*Misconceptions About Quality

OER at Penn State: "There is a misconception that OER are not subject to the same editorial and/or peer reviewed process as traditional publications. In actuality, many open access journals are peer-reviewed and there is a growing body of OER that are refereed by instructors."

4. Institutional Support - infrastructure and experience at IUP is in an early phase

# IUP

Identifying and evaluating suitable OER for class assignment

**Dr. Kelly Heider**  
Education Librarian/Professor  
kheider@iup.edu

Sharing of faculty-created OER through the "bepress" Selected Works profile of the "Digital Commons" knowledge repository

**Sara Parme**  
Scholarly Communications Librarian  
sara.parme@iup.edu

Strategies for building OER-centric courses or developing OER materials

**Ken Sherwood**  
Center for Digital Humanities & Culture  
sherwood@iup.edu

# Other Resources

## OER at Penn State

<https://oer.psu.edu/getting-started-with-oer/>

**Open Textbook Network** (A library of faculty peer-reviewed textbooks sponsored by a consortium of 600 member universities)

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>

**Example: Grand Valley State's "Scholarworks"** site for open educational resources: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/oer/>