

Where to find OER

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Is the educational resource an OER?

First things first. How do you know if an educational resource is an OER? The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO](#) defines OERs as, “Learning, teaching, and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others.” OERs can be freely used, revised, and shared. The key distinguishing characteristics of an OER is its intellectual property license and the freedoms the license grants to others to adapt and share it. If an educational resource is not clearly tagged or marked as being in the public domain or having an open license, it is not an OER.

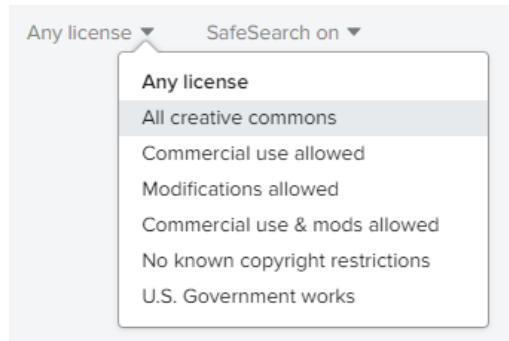
Search engines

A search engine like Google can be a good general starting place to find content online. However, specialized search engines that search specifically for OER are the best search engines to use. Their listings are selective based on different search criteria, so it is a good idea to try more than one. Here are a few search engines to try:

[Creative Commons \(CC\) Search](#) - The CC Search tool allows you to select a variety of sources and media types to search for. It automatically filters your search to find Creative Commons licensed resources that you can share, use, and remix. The search page provides access to

different search engines and sites offering various types of Creative Commons content, including text, music, and images.

[Flickr Advanced Search](#) - Apply a creative commons filter to Flickr search results.



[Google Advanced Search](#) – The Google search engine has an advanced search that allows searches by usage rights for content published to the internet under an open license.

[Where to Find CC Licensed Material \(using Openverse\)](#) - An extensive library of free stock photos, images, and audio.

[YouTube CC Search](#) - Apply a creative commons filter to YouTube search results.

Repositories

[EIU Booth Library Open Educational Resources \(OER\) LibGuide](#)

Sites with OER

[Community College Consortium for OER \(CCCOER\)](#) - Lists have been curated and organized into various categories including discipline, format, and license type. Most repositories have either per reviews or a rating scale where users have shared their perceptions of or experience using the resource. Categories include: OER repositories, open textbooks, books, open course ware, open access journals, subject specific, and digital media.

[Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois \(CARLI\) Digital Collection](#) - The CARLI Digital Collections has many special collections including printed and manuscript materials, images, and sound recordings. The collections also guarantee researchers access to cross-institution and cross-collection searches integrating previously disparate and possibly remote special collections. Not all resources are OER so check each resource's copyright restrictions and use policies.

[Illinois Open Educational Resources \(IOER\)](#) - Provides standards-aligned educational and career content. Users can use these tools to find, share, curate, and create resources. Users can like, rate, comment on, and follow resources.

[LibriVox](#) - Free public domain audiobooks read by volunteers around the world.

[MIT OpenCourseWare \(OCW\)](#) - Offers a searchable database of MIT open courses, materials, and teaching resources.

[Open Professional Education Network \(OPEN\)](#) - Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Provides list of openly licensed media elements including searches for photos, images, videos, and audio/music.

[Open Science](#) - Offers an open science toolbox.

[Open Washington \(Open Educational Resources Network\)](#) - This network is supported by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. It contains an impressive amount of open course materials, including textbooks, assessments, syllabi, readings, and lectures.

[Reaching Across Illinois Library System \(RAILS\)](#) - Provides access for all Illinois residents to thousands of e-resources including OERs for students.

[Skills Commons](#) - Offers a library of workforce training materials.

Ask a librarian

The role of the [EIU Booth Library Subject Librarians](#) is to assist faculty in conducting research, acquiring materials needed for teaching and research, answer questions about copyright, and communicate the services and resources offered by the EIU Booth Library.

Evaluating OER Repositories

The [BC Open Education Librarians](#) have created a rubric for assessing OER repositories. The [Open Education Resource Repository \(OERR\) Rubric \[PDF\]](#) was developed to evaluate OER repositories in the areas of authority, audience, access and diversity, user-friendliness, subject coverage, search functionality and browsing, media type, and licensing and permissions.