Navigating the Open Educational Resources Landscape

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Agenda

1. Session objectives
2. Defining learning objects and OERs
3. Benefits of incorporating OERs
4. Licensing concerns
5. Locating OERs
6. Evaluating OERs
7. Contributing OERs
8. Live demo
9. Q&A
Session Objectives

After this presentation, participants will be able to:

• Define and describe learning objects and open educational resources (OERs)
• Identify licensing issues related to use of OERs
• Locate OER materials for use in their courses
• Evaluate OERs for quality and scholarly merit
• Contribute their own instructional materials to the OER community
Digital Objects

"A digital resource that can be reused to mediate learning."  (Wiley, 2008, p. 346)
Examples of Digital Objects

• Pictures and diagrams
• Test questions or other assessment items
• Documents and articles
• Videos
• Interactive multimedia activities
• Digital textbooks
• Entire courses
Open Educational Resources

"A learning object that can be freely used, reused, adapted, and shared." (Wiley, 2008, p. 346)
Why Use OERs?

• Reduced cost for students
• Reduced effort for faculty
• Increased variety
Intellectual Property and Licensing

- Public domain
- Creative Commons
- GNU GPL/GNU FDL
- Copyright/all rights reserved.

More Restrictive

Less Restrictive

Open

Proprietary

(Not freely licensed.)
OER Commons

- Very large collection (42,000+) of open resources
- User-friendly interface
- Easily searchable by subject area, intended audience, media format, language, and conditions of use

www.oercommons.org
Connexions

- Operated by Rice University
- Repository of textbooks and course content with 17,000 learning objects
- Searchable by subject, language, and popularity

www.cnx.org
MERLOT

- Multimedia Educational Resource for Online Learning and Teaching
- Operated by California State University
- The oldest and one of the largest OER repositories
- Searchable by subject keyword, content type, format, audience, mobile compatibility, and peer review status

www.merlot.org
Orange Grove Repository

- Operated by Florida Virtual Campus
- Includes digital resource and open textbooks
- Higher education and K-12 resources

www.theorangegrove.org
OpenCourseWare Consortium

- An association of higher education institutions and other organizations
- Web database of over 4,000 open courses

www.ocwconsortium.org
Khan Academy

- 4,000 “micro-lecture” videos in a wide variety of subjects
- Perfect for introducing new material or to refresh topics
- Licensed under CC BY-NC-SA and hosted on YouTube

www.khanacademy.org
Open Textbooks

• Textbook Revolution
  • www.textbookrevolution.com

• College Open Textbooks
  • www.collegeopentextbooks.org

• Global Text Project
  • globaltext.terry.uga.edu

• InTech
  • www.intechopen.com
Evaluating OERs

- Not all OERs are peer reviewed, but many are.
- Some repositories allow searching by peer review status.
- Use your best professional judgment in final selection of OERs.
The Next Step

- Contribute to the OER community by creating and sharing your own instructional materials.
- Your expertise can benefit others!
Live Demo

Blackboard Sandbox
Questions?