

Hello!

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Openly Obsessed

Open Educational Resources Policy in
Western Canada & Conceptualizing
Openness in Higher Education



Definition of OER



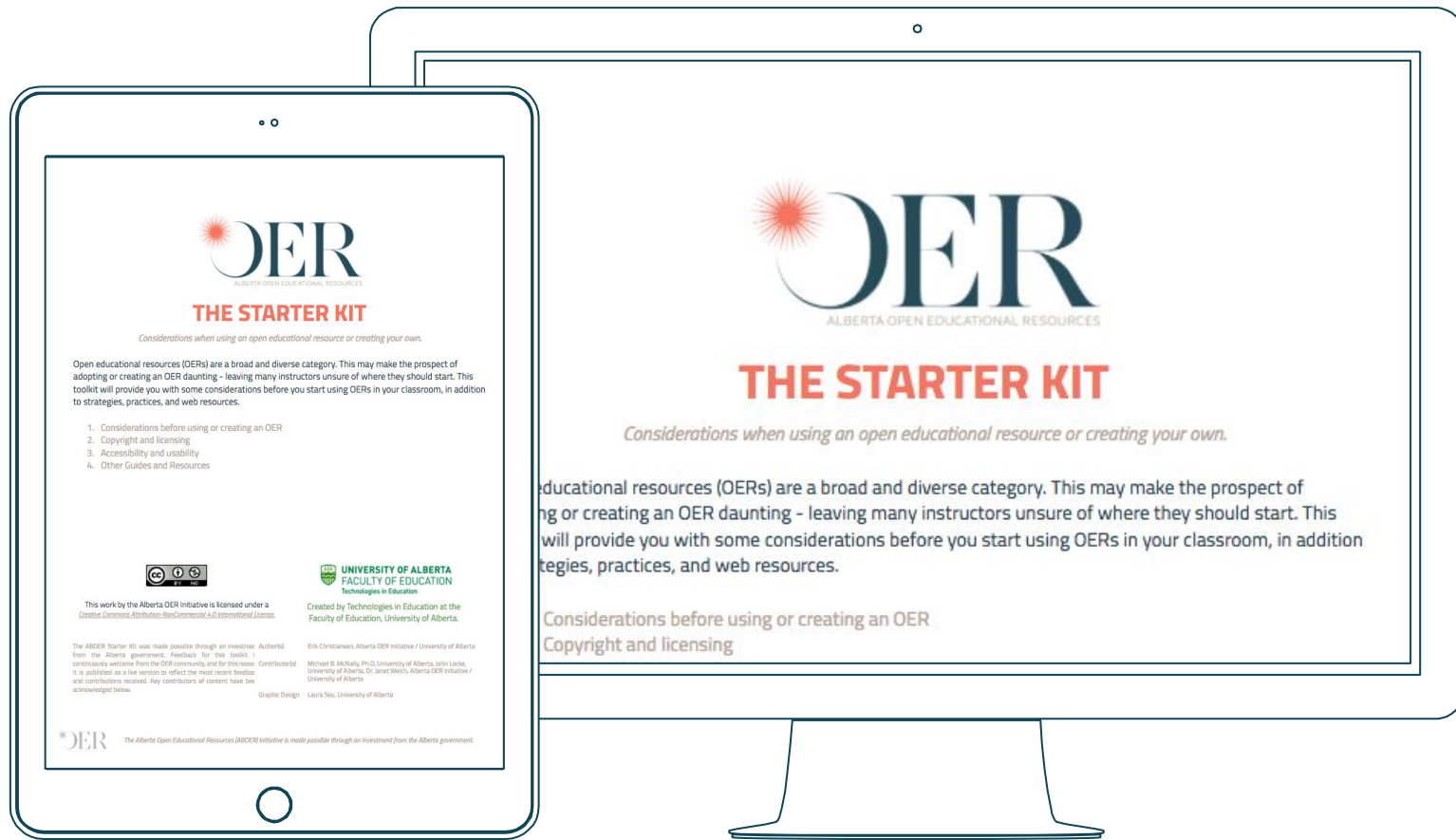
“digitized materials offered freely and openly for educators, students and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning and research” (OECD, 2007)



Background

Why did I become
so obsessed with
open educational
resources?





ALBERTA OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

THE STARTER KIT

Considerations when using an open educational resource or creating your own.

Open educational resources (OERs) are a broad and diverse category. This may make the prospect of adopting or creating an OER daunting – leaving many instructors unsure of where they should start. This toolkit will provide you with some considerations before you start using OERs in your classroom, in addition to strategies, practices, and web resources.

1. Considerations before using or creating an OER
2. Copyright and licensing
3. Accessibility and usability
4. Other Guides and Resources



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Considerations before using or creating an OER
Copyright and licensing

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Open Enough?

Eight Factors to Consider When
Transitioning from Closed to
Open Courses and Resources: A
Conceptual Framework

Research Question

What are the primary factors that educators need to consider when transitioning to OER?

If each of these factors could be placed on a conceptual scale from “most closed” to “most open”, what would be the implications?

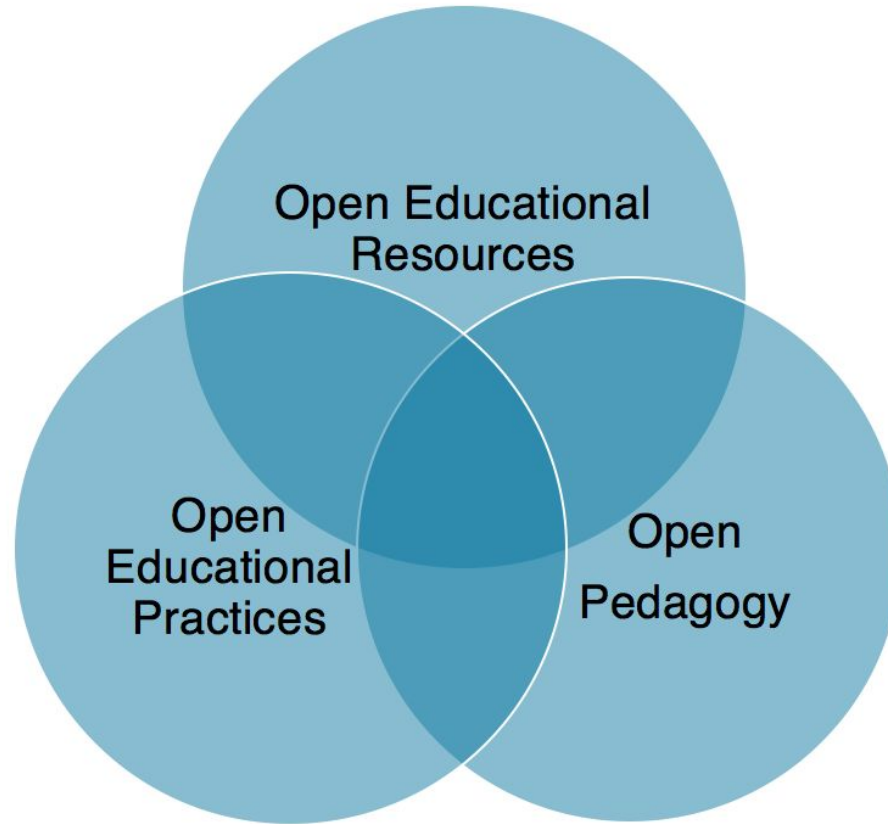


Goal

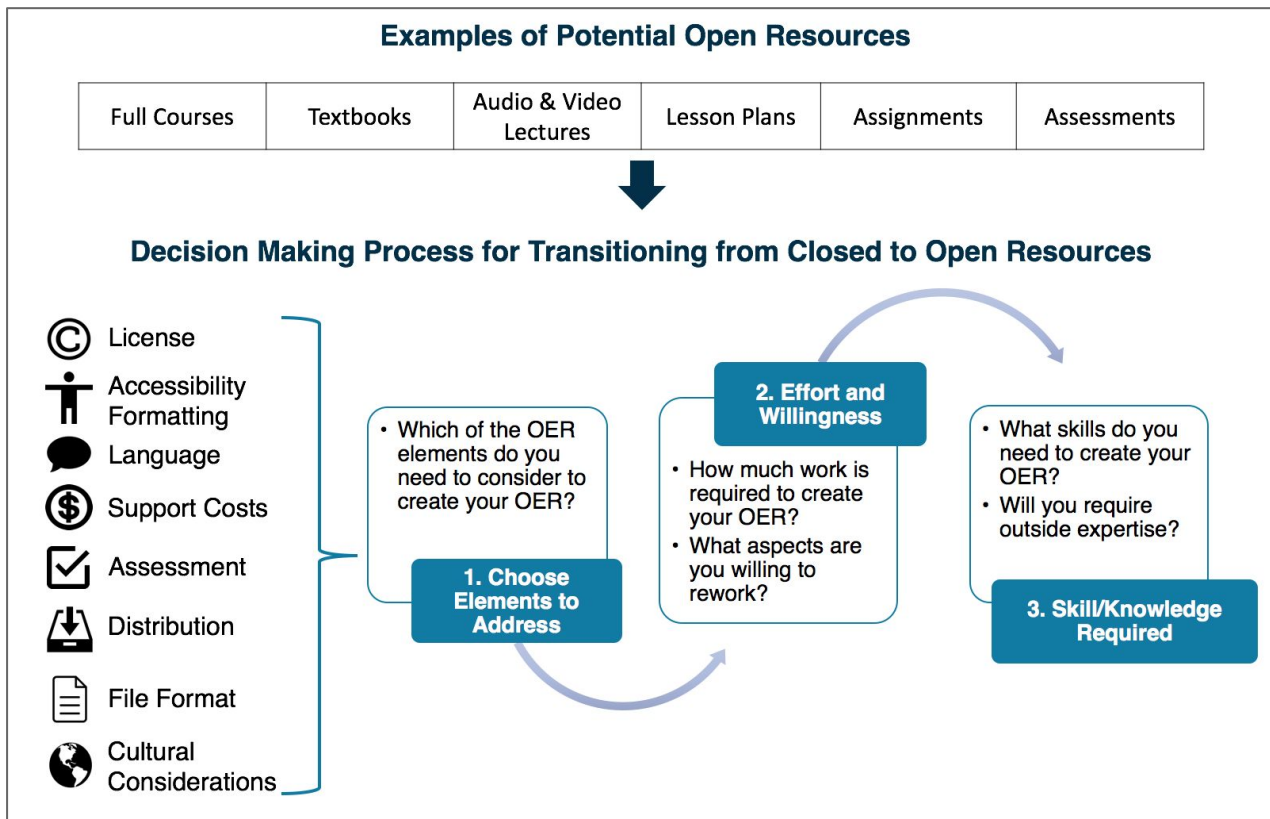
To help educators understand the choices and consequences when moving to OER



Conflated definitions of openness



Eight Factors to Consider When Transitioning to OER



Conceptualizing openness: Choose Elements

OER Factors	Most Closed	Mixed	Most Open
Copyright/Open Licensing Frameworks	Copyright/all rights reserved	Less Open CC License Terms (NC/ND and arguably SA)	CC-BY License/ Public Domain
Accessibility Formatting	Not formatted for accessibility	Some accessibility formatting (e.g. closed captioning)	Fully accessibility (e.g. compliance w/ US HHS 508 Compliant)
Language	Single Language (usually English)	Bi-lingual or includes guides/steps for translation	Multi-Lingual or includes guides/steps for translation and is bilingual
Support Costs	Paid resources	Licensed library resources	Openly Licensed Resources
Assessment	No assessment available	Self-assessment, but not meaningful (questions only)	Meaningful self assessment (questions and answers)
Digital Distribution	Closed/availalbe only to insiders (e.g. via LMS)	Open but low discoverability (e.g. institutional repository)	Open and high discoverability (e.g. YouTube or broadly availalbe repository (e.g. Merlot, BCCampus)
File Format	PDF or other non-editable format	Editable format but proprietary software (e.g. Word)	Fully open format (e.g. html)
Cultural Considerations	No consideration for outside cultural users/includes culturally specific materials/content	Some considerations for outside cultural users	Generally devoid of culturally specific material



Some Insights



- Lack of consensus in literature surrounding meaning of “openness” in education
- Copyright *most* important factor
- File formats factor for videos is vague
- “Most open” scenario can have pedagogical downsides
- Maximizing openness not always possible or necessary

2

A Mixed Bag

Open Educational Resources
Policy Directions in Western
Canada

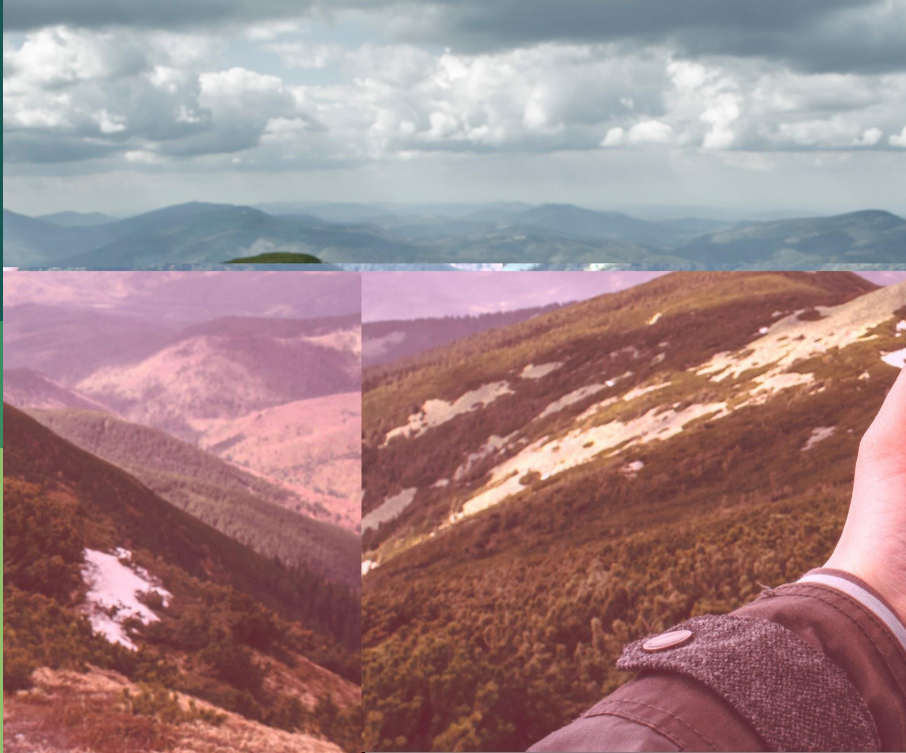
Research Question

What are the overarching OER policy directions, at the university and provincial government level, in Western Canada?

Do the four Western Provinces have substantially different OER priorities?



Goal



Provide a more comprehensive understanding of where we're putting our efforts



What are these policy documents you speak of?



- Ministry/university Strategic plans
- Institutional policies
- Funding initiatives
- Provincial OER initiative websites
- Budget letters...

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View ACROBAT Tell me what you want to do...									
<div> <div> <div>Cut Copy Paste</div> <div>Format Painter</div> </div> <div> <div>Arial 12 A⁺ A⁻</div> <div> <div>B I U</div> <div> <div>Text</div> <div>Normal Bad Good</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Wrap Text</div> <div>Check Cell Explanatory ... Followed H</div> </div> </div> <div>Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles</div> </div>									
F41 Camosun students save over \$115,000 with free open textbooks									
Province	Date	Date Accessed	Initiative / Organization	Resource Type	Page / Policy Title	URL	Notes		
BC	2016-06-08	Accessed 2016-12-24	BC Campus SOL ^R	Repository	Best Practices	https://solr.bccampus.ca/hvp/best-practices/	Best practices and barriers		
BC	2016-06-08	Accessed 2016-12-24	BC Campus SOL ^R	Wiki	Interoperability and Reusability Wiki	https://media.wiki.bccampus.ca/index.php/SOLR_Main_Page	Best practices		
BC	2016-06-08	Accessed 2016-12-24	BC Campus SOL ^R	Wiki	General Best Practices for Creating Learning Resources	https://media.wiki.bccampus.ca/index.php/SOLR_General_Best_Practices_for_Creating_Learning_Resources	Best practices		
BC	2013-09-20	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Campus	Blog post	Revisiting Campus 2020	https://bccampus.ca/2013/09/20/revisiting-campus-2020/		Not relevant	
BC	2007-04	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Report	Campus 2020 Thinking Ahead	http://web.archive.org/web/20110609000240/http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/campus2020/campus2020-thinkingahead-report.pdf	Original report not found. Web archive		
BC	2014-04	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Campus	Report	Student Services Survey Result	http://docs.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/d12200514a_response_package_aed-2013-00136.pdf	Discussion of OER		
BC	2012-10-16	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	BC to lead Canada in offering students free, open textbooks	https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/bc-to-lead-canada-in-offering-students-free-open-textbooks	QUOTE		
BC	2011-05-29	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	Open textbooks fill digital shelves	https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/open-textbooks-fill-digital-shelves		Not coded yet	
BC	2011-04-15	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	BC leading the discussion on open textbooks	https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/bc-leading-the-discussion-on-open-textbooks			
BC	2015-03-06	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	Open Education offers students and educators new learning experiences	https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2013-2017/2015AVED0021-000291.htm			
BC	2016-03-06	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	Open textbooks: a great idea catches on	https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/open-textbooks-a-great-idea-catches-on			
BC	2015-02	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Report	2015/2016 - 2017/2018 Service Plan	http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2015/sp/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf	QUOTE Goal 2 p 10-11		
BC	2015-12-01	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Press release	Grant to accelerate uptake of open textbooks	https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2013-2017/2015AVED0078-001999.htm			
BC	2014-02	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Report	2014/2015 - 2016/2017 Service Plan	http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2014/sp/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf			
BC	2015-11-10	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Press release	Additional open textbooks available for students	https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015AVED0074-001874			
BC		Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Report	2013/2014 Annual Service Plan Report	http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annual_reports/2013_2014/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf			
BC	2016-12-21	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Press release	Textbook savings continue to grow for post-secondary students	https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016AVED0130-002847			
BC	2015	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Report	2015/2016 Annual Service Plan Report	http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annual_reports/2015_2016/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf			
BC	2013	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education	Report	Budget Estimates 2013	http://docs.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/d19166314a_response_package_aed-2013-00151.pdf			
BC	2012	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology	Report	2012/13 Annual Service Plan	http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annual_reports/2012_2013/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf		Coded docs	
BC	2016-04-09	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Letter	TRU Budget Letter	http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/institution-resources-administration/budget-letters/tru-budget.pdf			
BC	2016-09-27	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Government	Press release	Camosun students save over \$115,000 with free open textbooks	https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016AVED0096-001820			
BC	2013	Accessed 2016-12-26	BC Ministry of Education	Report	2013/14 Service Plan	http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annual_reports/2013_2014/pdf/ministry/aved.pdf			

Tedious coding of documents

Documents represent thousands of pages

Reviewing specific mentions to OER and open education

Examining text at sentence and paragraph level

(Christiansen, 2017)



Qualitative Policy Analysis

1st Cycle Coding
-- Provisional Coding
-- Descriptive Coding

2nd Cycle Coding
-- Pattern Coding

Themes



150

Policy documents coded



417

Individual text snippets



18

Code Categories



Nine Major Themes



- Societal benefit
- Benefit to learning
- Development, training, and support
- Quality control
- Reputation and promotion
- Collaboration and leadership
- Copyright and intellectual property
- Cost savings
- Technology, usability, and accessibility



Analysis (in progress)





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Christiansen, E., McNally, M. (2017, October 12). *Open enough? Choices and consequences when transitioning from closed to open resources and courses*. Poster session presented at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, 2017 Conference, Calgary, AB.

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Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). (2007). Giving Knowledge for Free: The Emergence of Open Educational Resources. <http://www.oecd.org/edu/cei/givingknowledgeforfreetheemergenceofopeneducationalresources.htm>



Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#)

For an editable version of this document, please contact Erik Christiansen using the link below.

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