

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Open educational resources (OERs) are learning resources that are made available to the public at little to no cost. Typically, OERs are electronic, not copyrighted, and made available on the Web.


A CLOSER LOOK

Examples of OERs include full courses, syllabi, lectures, assignments, exams, lab and classroom activities, games, simulations, and videos that are created and offered by individuals or by colleges and universities as a collaborative effort between departments at various institutions.

A major benefit of using OERs is flexibility. In a relatively short time, faculty members can construct a course for no expense other than their time.

It is important to carefully evaluate each resource you plan to use for quality. Posted resources are not necessarily always accurate or of high quality.

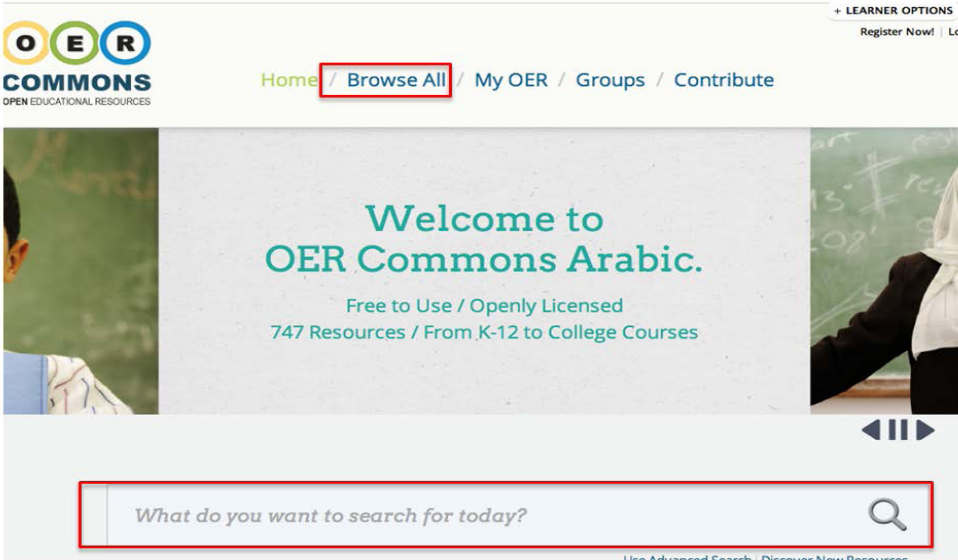
You should also check the “fine print” for each resource. Some are available for you to use without any stipulations, whereas others come with special requirements or fees.



Be sure to check and document the terms of use for each resource you plan to use.

EXAMPLE

With most OER repositories, it's very easy to search and find what you're looking for. OER Commons offers a search box on their home page as well as an opportunity to browse all of the items in the repository.



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