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Towards Mainstreaming Open Education Resources

The experience of Leeds University Libraries

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UKSG Webinar 30th July 2026

Session Outline

01 **Context at the University of Leeds**

How open education resources connect with library strategy, ambitions around open scholarship and financial drivers

02 **Evolution of our approach to open education resources**

How this has developed over time and the key planks of our approach

03 **How supporting open education resources fits with our overall approach to content provision**

How working with open education resources has changed the way we work in Content and Discovery Services

04 **Questions and discussion**

Definitions

Open Education

Resources, tools and practices that employ a framework of open sharing to improve educational access and effectiveness worldwide.

Open Education Resources (OERs)

Teaching, learning and research resources that are freely available and include permissions to be used, distributed and modified by others.

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Why OERs Matter at the University of Leeds

01 **Financial challenges**

Escalating e-textbook models and limited assurance of long-term availability create pressure for institutions.

02 **Open scholarship movement**

Existing open research infrastructures and licensing practices provide a foundation for education-focused openness.

03 **Open pedagogies**

Learner-centred approaches align with open, inclusive and participatory teaching practices.

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Reading Lists at University of Leeds Libraries

37,000 taught students across 5 faculties

2500 active reading lists

Financial Drivers for University of Leeds Libraries

£3,520 Mean cost: subscription e-textbook

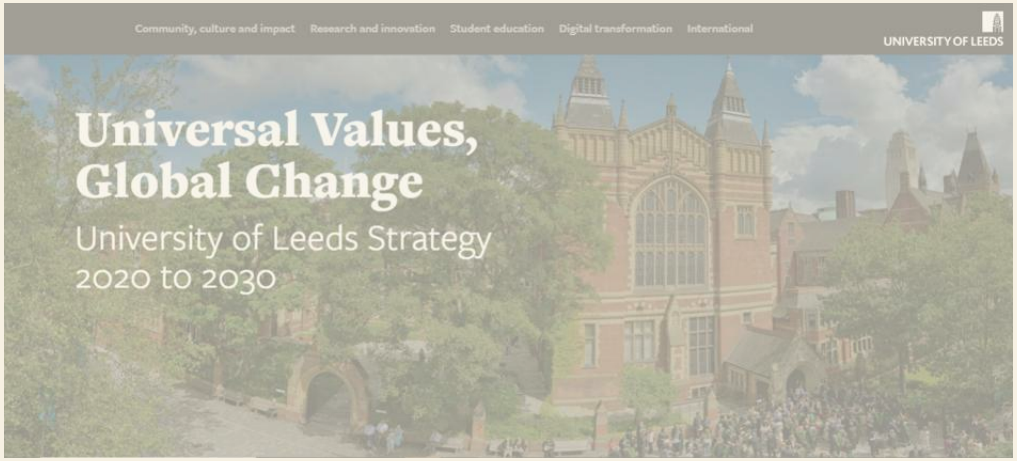
£210 Mean cost: perpetual licence e-book

2 hrs 45 mins Mean usage: subscription e-textbook

13 mins Mean usage: perpetual licensed e-book

Usage is often chapter-based and relatively low across a year

University Strategy: Universal Values, Global Change



Strategic connection

"a blueprint that harnesses expertise in research and education … working through collaboration to tackle inequalities, benefit society and drive change."

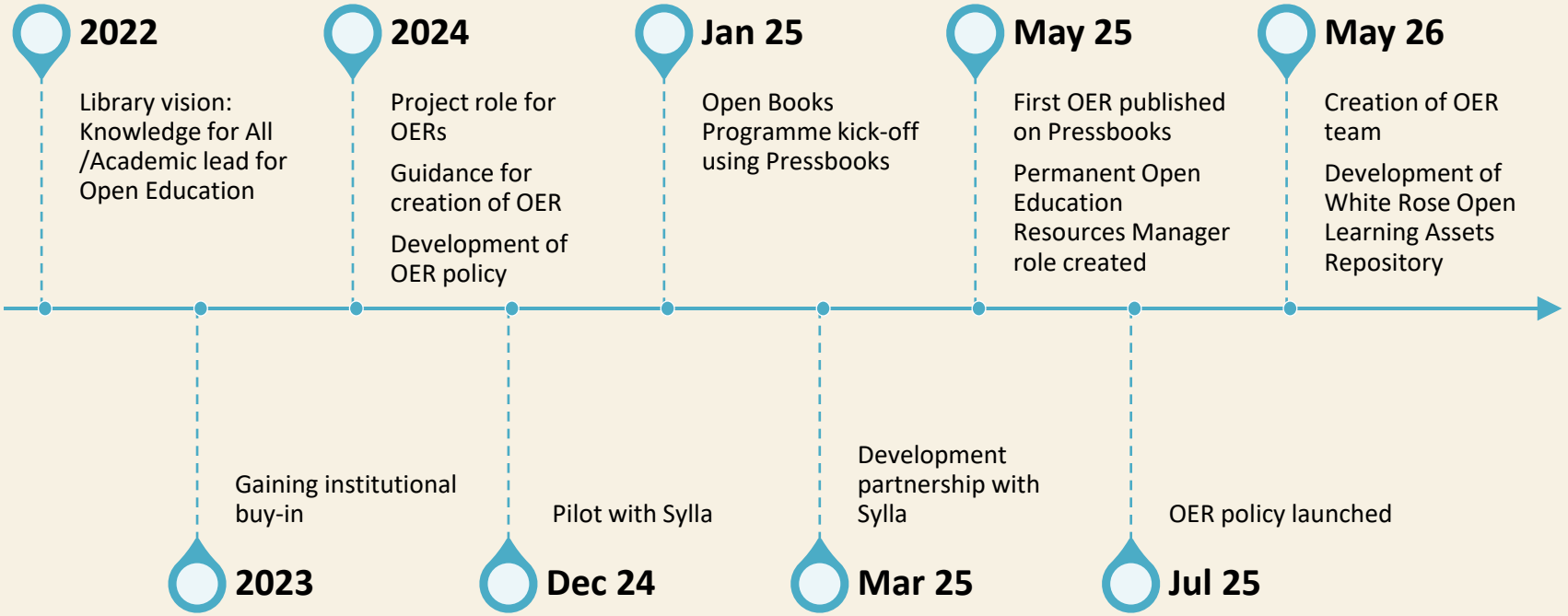
Open education supports the wider mission by making learning resources more accessible, reusable and collaborative.

Knowledge for All: University of Leeds Libraries Vision



- Open Higher Education
- Sustainable Environments
- Digital Futures
- Enriched Experiences

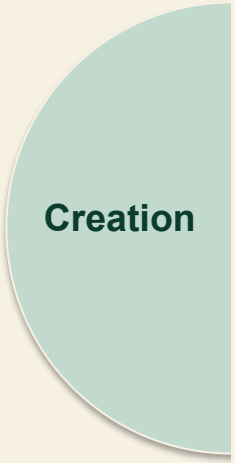
University of Leeds Vision: Implementation



University of Leeds Vision: Content Approach



Content Approach: Creation



01 Open Books Programme using Pressbooks

Excellent engagement from academics, 6 published, 31 in development

02 Ensuring discoverability of created resources

Minting DOIs, metadata creation and addition to repositories. Download numbers and where books have been adopted.

03 Support for creators

Introductory OER sessions, Libraries Open Books cohorts, 1-to-1 support and writing sessions. Creation of a supportive Community of Practice.

Content Approach: Curation



01 Storage

Stable platforms for storage that allows for discovery and re-use



02 Preservation

Advice on file formats
Leeds Open Books archived by CLOCKSS, all have DOIs
Web and media archiving and link maintenance

03 Licensing

Appropriately licensed for clarity around re-use

04 Metadata

Good metadata is key to the discoverability of OERs, for attribution and re-use

Content Approach: Curation - Metadata

Metadata

BOOK

Meraki : towards transformative learning in higher education / Chrissi Nerantzi.

Nerantzi, Chrissi, author.

2025

PEER REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS

Available Online >

Content Approach: Curation - Metadata



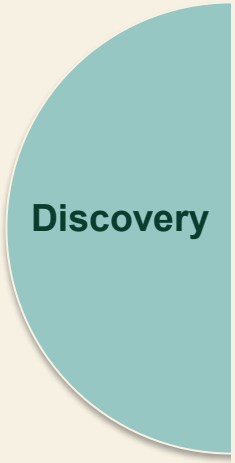
Title	Meraki : towards transformative learning in higher education
Creator	Nerantzi, Chrissi, author. ›
ORCiD	Nerantzi, Chrissi.
Publisher	Leeds : University of Leeds Open Books
Creation Date	2025
Description	Meraki explores transformative learning and teaching in higher education, with a focus on creativity, inclusion, shared ownership, critical and creative teaching, reflective learning, collaboration, assessment, feedback and artificial intelligence in education.
Subject	Transformative learning › Creative teaching › Artificial intelligence -- Educational applications ›
Format	1 online resource (103 pages)
Source	Library Catalogue
Identifier	ISBN : 9781918312027
General Note	Includes a podcast. This Open Educational Resource (OER) has been peer reviewed. Refereed/Peer-reviewed Educational use: Professional learning, teaching enhancement, reflective practice, staff development, and curriculum development for higher education educators.

Content Approach: Curation - Metadata



Restrictions on Access Note	Unrestricted online access
Terms Governing Use and Reproduction Note	Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License, except where otherwise noted. CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0
Accessibility Note	Text WCAG 2.1 AA “University of Leeds Open Books is committed to ensuring that our open textbooks are accessible to all learners, including those with disabilities. We believe that education should be inclusive, and we strive to remove barriers to learning by adhering to best practices in accessibility. If you encounter any accessibility barriers while using our textbooks or have suggestions for improvement, please contact us.” Source: https://leeds.pressbooks.pub/about
Language	English
Collection Path	FEATURED COLLECTIONS / Open Educational Resources / University of Leeds Open Books /

Content Approach: Discovery



01 Improving the metadata pipeline

Supporting Thoth as a source of reliable metadata for open books, improve data in the Alma Central Discovery Index and Community Zone

02 Making OERs discoverable via Primo

11,381 OERS - organic discovery and inclusion on reading lists.

03 Global visibility

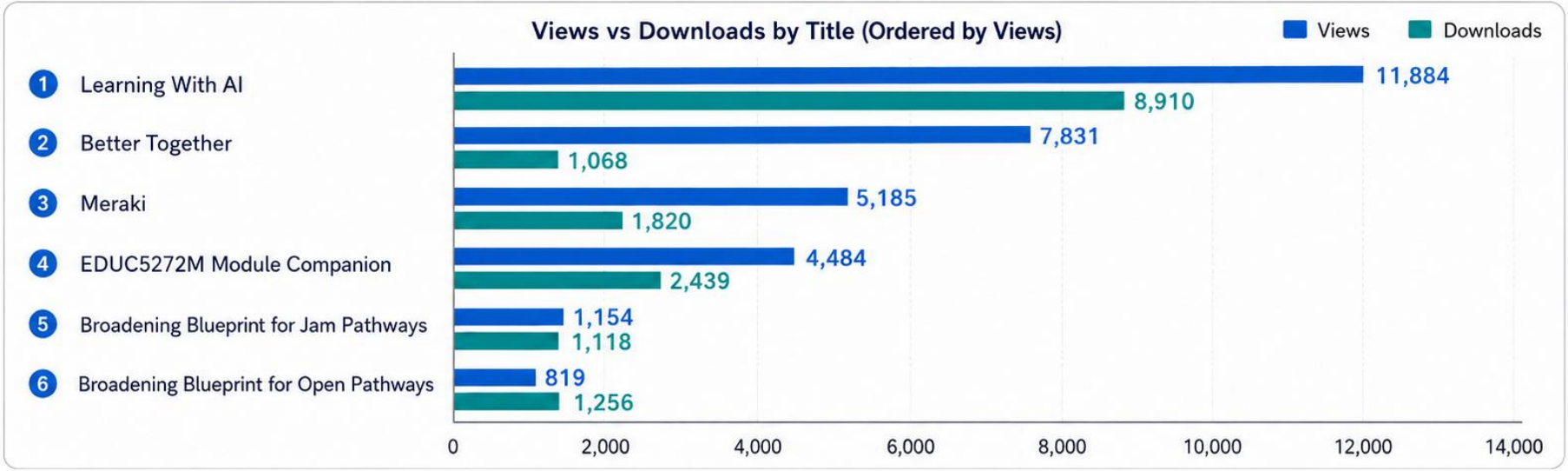
Leeds Open Books indexed in PressBooks Directory and Open Textbooks Library. Also deposited in Merlot, OER Commons and Zenodo

Pressbooks Network Statistics Summary

Selected titles | 1 Jan 2025 - 7 Jul 2026

Total Views
31,357

Total Downloads
16,611



- **Top title by views:** Learning With AI (11,884)
- **Top title by downloads:** Learning With AI (8,910)

IRELAND



Learning With AI: A Student Edited Collection

University College Dublin

USA



Learning With AI: A Student Edited Collection

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

VIETNAM



Learning With AI: A Student Edited Collection

Hanoi University of Industry

These institutions have verified the presence or use of our open books in their libraries, learning resources or teaching support materials.

AUSTRALIA



Meraki: Towards Transformative Learning in Higher Education

Bond University



Learning With AI: A Student Edited Collection

Southern Cross University

Charles Sturt University

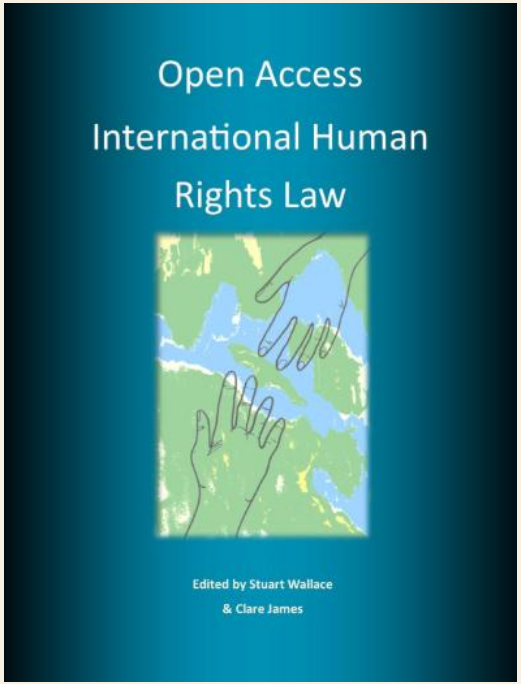
Victoria University

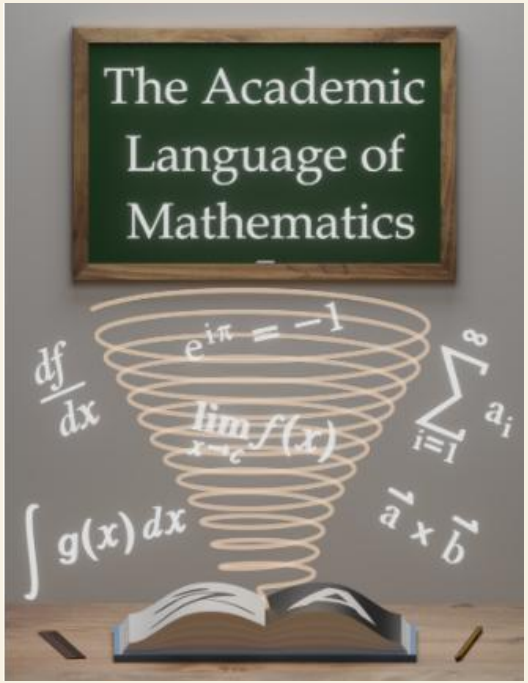
FINLAND



Learning With AI: A Student Edited Collection

University of Helsinki

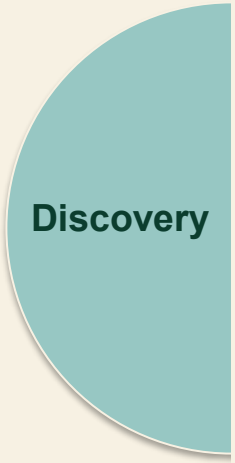




[The Academic Language of Mathematics (open) book launch - LibCal - University of Leeds Library]

https://leeds.libcal.com/event/4567938

Content Approach: Discovery



04 Sylla as a discovery tool

Surfacing OERs aligned with module content

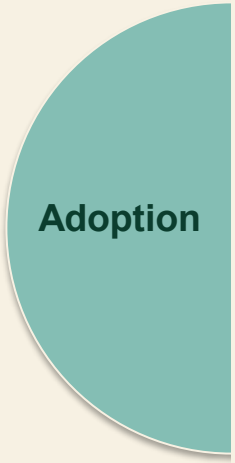
05 Other discovery routes

Further approaches to OER discovery

06 OER Community of Practice

Discovering resources adopted by colleagues across the UK

Content Approach: Adoption



01 Support sessions for academics

Workshops with practical guidance on OERs and reading lists

02 Understanding user behaviour

Speaking to academics with OER adoptions to better understand motivation and approaches

03 Adoption via Sylla

Building on discovery, manual process support from OER team

04 Tracking adoption

Challenges of identification, aiming to increase OERs citations

05 Next steps

Targeted OER alternatives and potential OER workflows

Content Approach: Adaptation



01 **Developing approach**

Current focus on creation, but exploring approaches to adaptation

02 **Guidance and support**

Developing guidance and sessions for academics

03 **Technical challenges**

Limitations with PDFs

Impact of OERs on Team Structures

Access and Acquisitions

Acquisitions and Reading Lists

Metadata and Discovery



Access and Acquisitions

Acquisitions and Reading Lists

Metadata and Discovery

Open Education Resources

Moved from 2 teams to 3

Impact of OERs on Team Structures

Siloed Team Approach

Team meetings

High level section communication

Cross Team Working

Team meetings retained

CPD meetings developed

Fortnightly prioritisation meetings involving all managers

Fortnightly prioritisation meetings involving operational leads

Evolving our meeting structures – still a work in progress!

UK and Ireland OER Community

OER Community of Practice for UK & Ireland

Collaboration between higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland and the Open Education Network (OEN), hosted by the University of Minnesota

Mission

"to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students"

https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/oer-community-uk-ireland/home?authuser=0

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OER Community Guiding Principles

Aligned with the Open Education Network's values

Common Good
Serving society broadly

Equity
Equal opportunity for all

Inclusivity
Welcoming all voices

Action
Moving ideas forward

Shared Knowledge
Knowledge for everyone

Integrity
Honesty & transparency

Source: Open Education Network values

OER Commmunity Work: Resources & Tools

Open Textbook Library

Open textbooks, including a growing UK & Ireland collection.

OER for Reading Lists

Shared spreadsheet of open textbooks adopted across UK & Irish institutions.

OER Toolkit & Guidance

Guides on licences, attribution, copyright, evaluation and advocacy.

Train-the-Trainer Materials

Workshop slides and resources for OER introduction sessions.

Community resources supporting OER discovery, adoption and training

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Get Involved

Join the UK & Ireland OER community and contribute to shared practice

Join the listserv

Connect with open education practitioners across the region
OER-Community-UK-Ireland@jiscmail.ac.uk

Submit event ideas

Share your practice or nominate a colleague to present.

Contribute to resources

Add open textbooks in use at your institution to the shared collection.

sites.google.com/umn.edu/oer-community-uk-ireland · Contact: the00017@umn.edu

Open Q&A Discussion

Questions, reflections and comments