joannemcphie1 July 27, 2026

UKSG OER Event: What are the questions you have had or you anticipate getting when talking about OER

How is the quality and rigour of OER assessed?

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What are the risks associated with adopting an open textbook?

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> **Jez** Jul 30, 2026 09:20am
> The textbook might be removed, but to mitigate this you can download and store a copy in one of the portable file formats just in case.

Do open textbooks have additional teaching support materials, such as instructor slides?

2

> **Ying** Jul 30, 2026 11:03am
> Some of them do, such as the OpenStax textbooks. But many of them do not have these ancillaries.

> **Jesse Waters** Jul 30, 2026 11:05am
> They can include additional materials. There are many possibilities to provide suplementary materials, and even add addtional content after publication. Pressbooks supports H5P enabling the inclusion of activites and quizzes, etc.

How do I include 3rd party materials when producing OERs?

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Why should we be expected to create our own OER and not get paid for it? (!)

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What are the copyright implications?

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> **Hopeful Iguana** Jul 30, 2026 11:08am
> The CC licence will tell you what you can do - but OERs can contain third-party copyright material. In the copyright statement you can add/look for statements similar to "except where otherwise noted" and then check the copyright status of those third-party materials. Also if you want to combine materials under different open licences, keep in mind that the licences might not always be compatible.

> **Helen Moore** Jul 31, 2026 01:23pm
> Creative Commons provides a compatibility chart https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Wiki/cc_license_compatibility

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How do repositories for OERs sit alongside traditional institutional repository platforms? Are they integrated or distinct from one another?

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> **Admirable Hedgehog** Jul 30, 2026 11:07am
> Where there is confusion among academics about the material they can add to the institutional repository, how would you help to distinguish the OER repository?

Why should I make my hard work freely available?

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Quirky Squirrel Jul 30, 2026 11:04am
To share you knowledge and expertise - you will still be aknowledged for your work and get your name/research known

Puzzle Joiner Jul 30, 2026 11:05am
you are already working for free in the traditional journal publishing model

Admirable Hedgehog Jul 30, 2026 11:05am
I would draw attention to how OERs keep the value of academic research and the labour and financial costs within the academy or research sphere, rather than outsourcing to private businesses.

How would one identify OERs published by UK and Ireland HEIs?

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Helen Moore Jul 31, 2026 01:30pm
In the Open Textbook Library you can only filter by language, I think. The Pressbooks Directory lets you filter by language, institution and publisher (https://pressbooks.directory/). OER Commons is similar. It's not ideal. The new White Rose repository will help and maybe other institutions will develop similar.

Do they get updated and if they do the old editions remain available?

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Helen Moore Jul 31, 2026 01:34pm
Yes, they can be updated. You can withdraw content but if people have downloaded the earlier edition(s) these will remain in circulation. Pressbooks enables you to highlight changes and it's now possible to archive books (as opposed to deleting) any that are no longer being updated / maintained. They are still publicly available but they are marked as an archived copy with a banner at the top of each screen 'This book was archived by its publisher on xx xxx xxxx.'

How can I find good OER for my subject area?

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Compassionate Meerkat Jul 30, 2026 11:04am
Searching the UK&I collection of the Open Textbook Library to see adoptions from other institutions

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Are there risks with updating an OER or creating a new version, with a previous version openly out and being used?

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How does peer review work to ensure quality?

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Will my OER be viewed as high academic quality?

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How can academics trust and evaluate open resources as rigorously as commercial textbooks?

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Toby Jul 30, 2026 11:24am
Well, this seems to presume that commercial textbooks undergo rigorous review ... a statement that itself would deserve further investigation and evidence 😉

How does contributing to the OEN or creating an OER help me in my career?

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Why should we use OER when we are a 'cheap' course to run compared to other courses?

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How do I get reluctant academics to become engaged with OER?

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> **Compassionate Meerkat** Jul 30, 2026 11:05am
> Focus on the 'what's in it for me'

Where is the balance between openness and preserving the value of academic expertise?

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What happens if the platform has problems or gets removed?

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Students are paying for their courses - won't they wonder why we are using /creating materal that is freely available?

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> **Jesse Waters** Jul 30, 2026 11:08am
> There is research that suggests that students enjoy OER materials, and enjoy co-creating resources to demonstrate their knowledge. It can be empowering. Many students are also keen advocates for sustainability and equal access to educational materials.

Why are we expected to do even more work for free?

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why should our competitors get free resource from us?

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Archiving

How can we make sure OERs remain available even if the original institution ceases to exist?

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How do I know something is an OER?

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The examples I've seen in this webinar so far have been mostly science-oriented, but I studied literature. Is there any way my lecturers could have utilised OERs? Or is the approach less relevant if your course doesn't have a textbook as such.

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> **Helen Moore** Jul 31, 2026 01:41pm
> Yes, you're right, there's a long tradition in STEM of open publishing. The Open Textbook Library contains subjects outside of STEM, including literature. It's worth bearing in mind that, as you say, textbooks may be used less frequently in literature but you can find lots of openly-licensed monographs in DOAB, e.g, which might be more suitable to the curriculum. The boundaries between textbook and monograph are blurry and maybe we should focus instead on the type of licence it has, and the use / intended audience?

I receive publishing royalties for my textbook. Why would I want to create an OER if it impacts on my remuneration?

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