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## What is the value of OER in adult education (AE)?

Quality OER can be powerful tools to enhance learning and instruction in adult education. OER help students achieve their learning goals by providing flexible and accessible supplements to instruction. OER encourage life-long learning habits in students by providing them with personalized and readily available learning materials. OER also help educators by augmenting instruction, strengthening their content knowledge, and providing access to free online professional development.

## What is the difference between free and open?

Free resources serve a meaningful purpose in AE by providing teachers with tools to support teaching and learning. “Free” means that materials are free to access but not remix or revise. However, when a resource is open, a user can remix or revise with other open resources or self-generated content to produce new material that directly targets the adult learner’s needs.

## The 5Rs\*

Another way to think about OER is through the Five R Framework, developed by David Wiley. It supports a deeper understanding of what it means to consider an object (i.e., resource) an OER.

1. **Retain** – the right to make, own, and control copies of the content
2. **Reuse** – the right to reuse the content as verbatim or in its unaltered form
3. **Revise** – the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself
4. **Remix** – the right to combine the original or revised content with other content to create something new
5. **Redistribute** – the right to make & share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others

What are the benefits of using and creating OER for adult education?

Creating and using OER may improve student persistence because the materials can be tailored to their current needs and interests; increase student use of a online tools; encourage educators to collaborate and share; save costs; and serve as a model for lifelong learning.

Where can I create and remix OER?

OER Commons Open Author [www.oercommons.org/open-author-about](http://www.oercommons.org/open-author-about)

**Gooru Learning** <http://about.goorulearning.org>

WikiEducator[wikieducator.org/](http://wikieducator.org/)

Open Tapestry[www.opentapestry.com/](http://www.opentapestry.com/)

YouTube Video Editor[www.youtube.com/editor](http://www.youtube.com/editor)

TedEd<http://ed.ted.com>

*OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits sharing, accessing, repurposing̵̶ including for commercial purposes̶ and collaborating with others.*

# C:\Users\Brad\Desktop\index.jpgOpen Educational Resources (OER): Fact Sheet for ABLE/GED Instructors

OER in Action

At the heart of the movement towards Open Educational Resources is the simple and powerful idea that the world’s knowledge is a public good and that technology in general and the Worldwide Web in particular provide an opportunity for everyone to share, use, and reuse it.

Smith, M.S. and Casserly, C.M. 2006. The promise of Open Educational Resources. Change, Vol. 38, No. 5, pp. 8-17)

What are some common types of OER?

* Activities
* Lesson Plans
* Online textbooks
* Interactive/simulations

Where to find OER:

OER Commons[www.oercommons.org](http://www.oercommons.org)

Merlot [www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm](http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm)

Creative Commons Search <http://search.creativecommons.org>

National Science Digital Library <https://nsdl.org/>

To learn more visit: OER Research Hub

[**http://oerresearchhub.org/**](http://oerresearchhub.org/)

## Classroom Scenario

You are teaching a geometry lesson to GED students. Some students are struggling to learn the concept of volume so you decide to provide them with supplemental materials.

While searching for materials, you find an almost perfect OER. However, you do not feel that the exercises are basic enough for the students to understand and you do not want them to struggle. You revise the exercises to teach them the concepts of volume using simpler figures because it is an OER.

You also find a useful online tool that the students can use to manipulate various 3-dimensional shapes and explore the respective volumes. Since the resource is an OER, you have changed the lesson to make the material less intimidating to students and then added the online tool to help them better understand the concept of finding volume of different sized figures. You have **revised** the original lesson to support the individual needs of the students.

## What is the future of OER?

OER are here to stay. The movement to increase open resources for teaching and learning is continuously growing because OER provide a means of addressing the cost of education and the need for more student-centered materials, particularly in adult education. It is important to ensure that this growing body of resources has a method of evaluation (see Achieve Rubrics found at [www.oercommons.org](http://www.oercommons.org)) to make sure that materials are high quality.

## What are the teaching and learning implications of OER?

* Personalized teaching and learning
* Development of high interest materials
* Greater ability to support various learning styles
* Teacher-directed professional development