Open Educational Resources: Introduction, Discovery, and Discussion

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OER definition

From SPARC: "Open Education encompasses resources, tools and practices that are free of legal, financial and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment." ([source](#))

From UNESCO: "Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning or research materials that are in the public domain or released with intellectual property licenses that facilitate the free use, adaptation and distribution of resources." ([source](#))

The 5 Rs: Almost all OER allow users to . . .

1. **R**etain - make, own, and control a copy of the resource (e.g., download and keep your own copy)

2. **R**evise - edit, adapt, and modify your copy of the resource (e.g., translate into another language)

3. **R**emix - combine your original or revised copy of the resource with other existing material to create something new (e.g., make a mashup)

4. **R**euse - use your original, revised, or remixed copy of the resource publicly (e.g., on a website, in a presentation, in a class)

5. **R**edistribute - share copies of your original, revised, or remixed copy of the resource with others (e.g., post a copy online or give one to a friend) ([source](#))
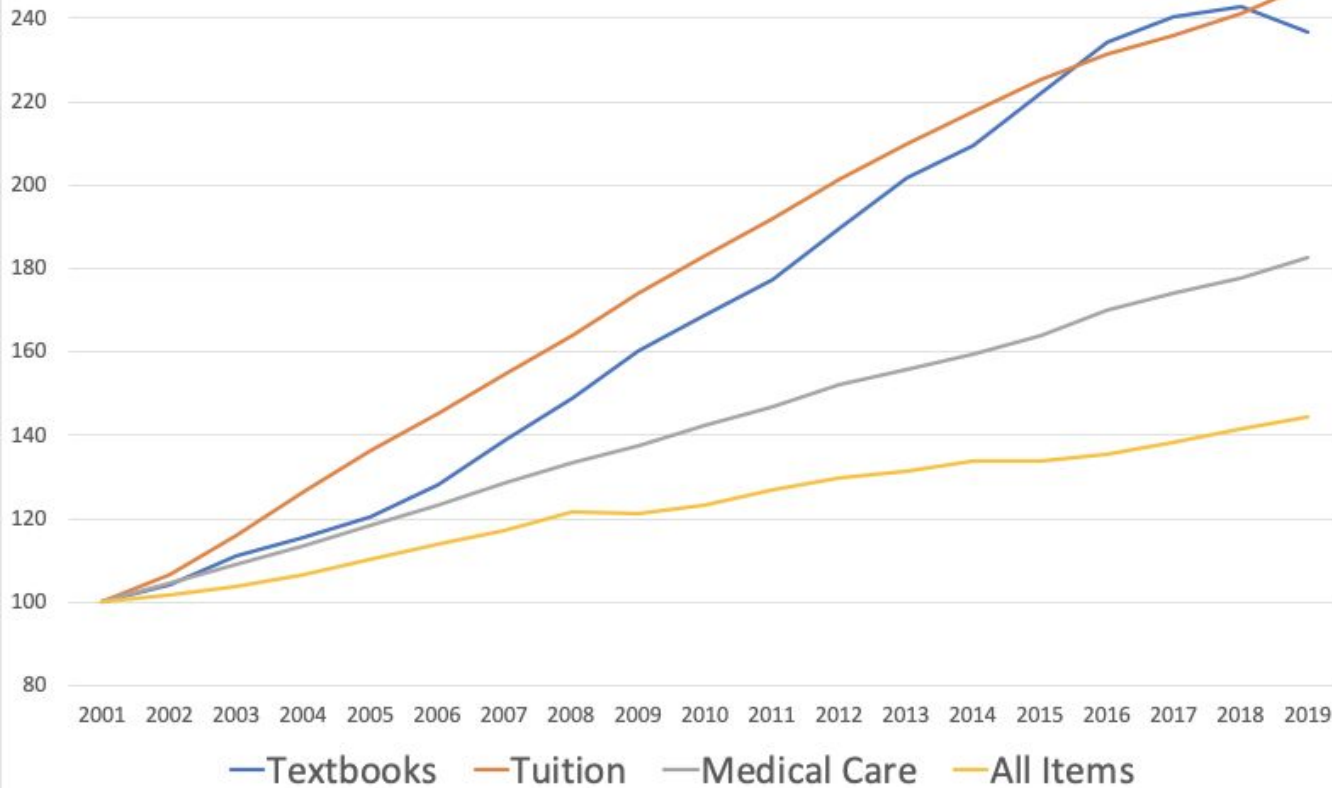
Why consider OER?

- Studies consistently show ~63% of students have not bought a required textbook at least once. (source)
- Students will avoid classes or majors with expensive course materials. (source)
- Some students have to choose between buying food and paying rent or purchasing textbooks. (source)

Textbook Prices Comparison

From 2001 to 2019, textbook costs rose

137%

Making education more equitable

A study of 21,822 students on OER impact found that they...

- "improve end-of-course grades and decrease DFW . . . rates for **all** students."

- "improve course grades at greater rates and decrease DFW rates at greater rates for **Pell recipient** students, **part-time** students, and **populations historically underserved by higher education**."

(emphasis added; source)

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Benefits of OER for Faculty

- Ability to customize resources to fit learning objectives -- faculty can mix & match, edit, choose from multiple resources, and/or add in their own material
- Students have day-1 access -- no waiting for financial aid or bookstore orders to come through
- Online availability
- Broad range of materials available: syllabi, test banks, homework, slide decks, videos, podcasts, etc.
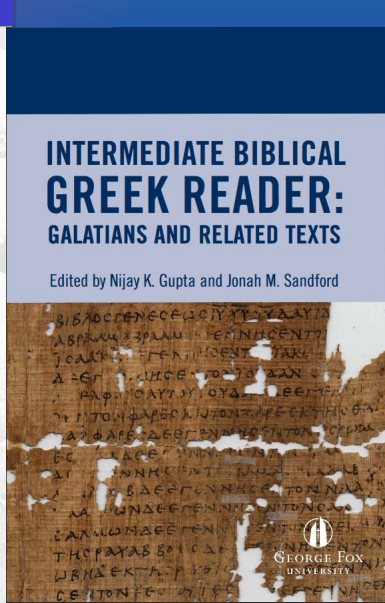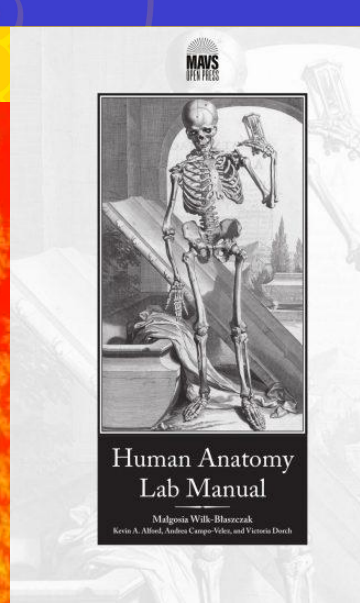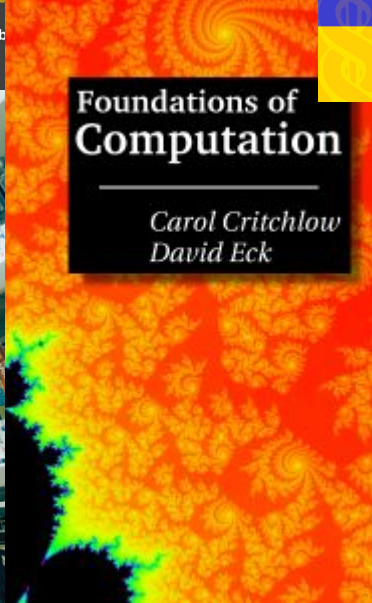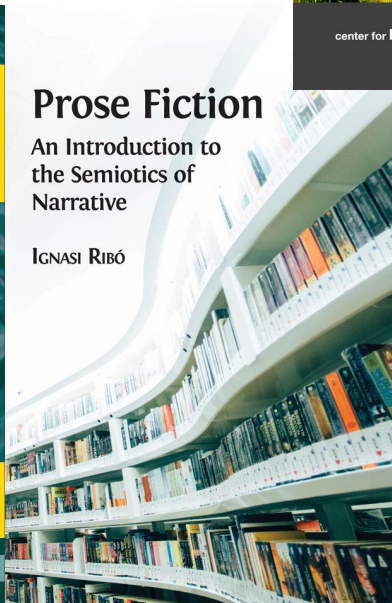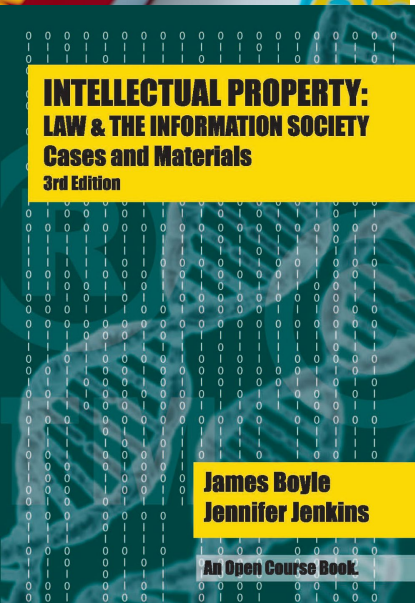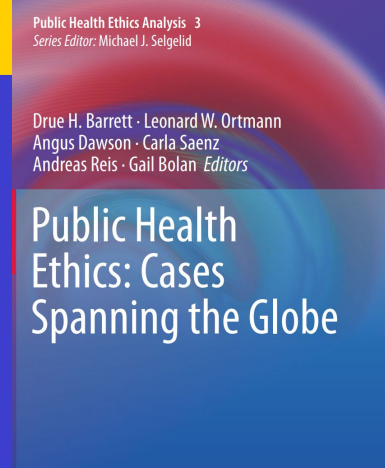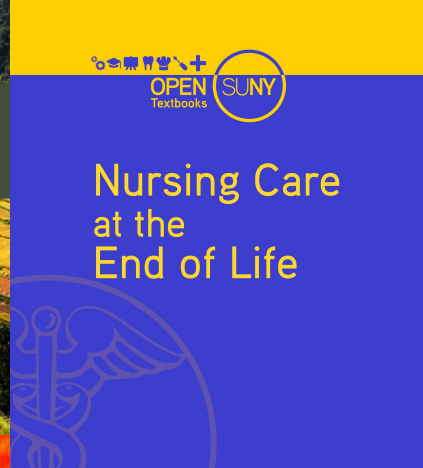
Benefits of OER for students

- **Free** online and **affordable** print availability
- Ability to download & use offline
- Increased success -- fewer drop/adds, greater progress toward degree (source)
- **Perpetual** access to materials

Macro-economics

U.S. History

Psychology

Sociology

Anatomy

Biology

Chemistry

Trig-nom-etry

Alg-

Sustaining the Commons

John M. Anderies and Marco A. Janssen

center for b

Nursing Care at the End of Life

Drue H. Barrett · Leonard W. Ortmann
Angus Dawson · Carla Saenz
Andreas Reis · Gail Bolan Editors

Public Health Ethics: Cases Spanning the Globe

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: LAW & THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
Cases and Materials
3rd Edition

James Boyle
Jennifer Jenkins

An Open Course Book.

Prose Fiction
An Introduction to the Semiotics of Narrative

IGNASI RIBÓ

Foundations of Computation

Carol Critchlow
David Eck

Human Anatomy Lab Manual

Malgosia Wilk-Blaszczak
Kevin A. Alford, Andrea Campo-Velez, and Victoria Dorch

INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL GREEK READER:
GALATIANS AND RELATED TEXTS

Edited by Nijay K. Gupta and Jonah M. Sandford

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

Use these resources to find OER

- Open Textbook Library
  - Collection of 717 self-contained textbooks that can be downloaded & used offline; most have faculty reviews (from the U. of Minnesota)
- BCcampus
  - 315 open textbooks from British Columbia higher education institutions
- OpenStax
  - Fewer titles but fully developed, peer-reviewed, and highly professional (from Rice U.); used by 9 million+ students since 2012
- Mason OER Metafinder
  - Federated search engine that includes the sources above and more
- Your Subject Librarian or Informationist
  - Ask Emory research specialists for help!

Ancillary resources

Types of resources

- Exam/quiz banks
- Homework banks
- Slide decks
- Syllabi
- Interactive activities
- Instructor guides
- Discussion prompts
- Canvas Course Shells

Where to find resources

- OpenStax (look for "Instructor Resources" with each title)
- Merlot
- LibreText (for math & science)
- Phet Simulations (for math & science)
- MyOpenMath
- Humanities Commons (for syllabi)
- OER Commons

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What if OER don't fit?

- Use library-licensed materials in Course Reserves
- Find library-licensed eBooks with unlimited seats
- Suggest less expensive alternatives such as rentals or slightly older editions
- More info on Emory Libraries' Affordable Textbooks and Teaching Materials website

Open education practices include use of OER and open pedagogy, "the practice of engaging with students as creators of information rather than simply consumers of it. It's a form of experiential learning in which students demonstrate understanding through the act of creation." (source)

The Open Anthology of Earlier American Literature

Robin DeRosa

Creative Commons Attribution

READ BOOK

OER created by Prof. Robin de Rosa and her undergrad students over several semesters; newer edition here.

Further Resources

- Emory Scholarly Communications Office's OER Site
- ACC Learn OER
- OER Starter Kit
- Adopting Open Educational Resources in the Classroom
- Finding Free and Open Resources

Photo by Martin Adams on Unsplash

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[Website](#) or [Listserv](#)

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