



# Monthly Workshop Series: Open Educational Resources

## Workshop Summary

The use of open educational resources has been a growing trend, particularly for online programs. With the enormous rise of the cost of textbooks within the past 30 years due to a variety of factors, students and faculty alike have been in search of no-cost alternatives whose quality is as good or better than traditional publisher-based materials. In addition to saving cost, however, the use of OERs also helps faculty chunk their material (a pedagogical best practice) and create more individualized courses. In this workshop, we'll explore the rise of OERs, both as repositories of materials as well as the embodiment of a general movement to lower the cost of – and thus the barrier to – higher education.

## Session Information

Feedback and Practice	
<b>Date/Time</b>	Thursday 21 June 2018, 1:00-2:00 pm ET
<b>Sign-Up Form</b>	<a href="https://www.jotform.com/learninghouse/workshops-2018">https://www.jotform.com/learninghouse/workshops-2018</a>
<b>Session URL</b>	<a href="https://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/fd-oer-1806/">https://thelearninghouse.adobeconnect.com/fd-oer-1806/</a>
<b>Audio</b>	While visuals will be handled through your web browser, audio for the workshop may be done either via phone or your computer's microphone and speakers. If you wish to use your phone, use the following call-in information: Number: (888) 619-1583 Passcode: 712 743 4023
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Open Educational Resources and Their Use in Higher Education</a> (1,035 words)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Cognitive Load Theory: Structuring Learning Materials for Maximum Retention</a> (969 words)</li> </ol>
<b>Instructions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click the "Sign-Up Form" link above to indicate your interest in the session. (Note that this is not required for you to attend.)</li> <li>2. Prior to the live session, please consume the readings listed above.</li> <li>3. At or just before the start time of the session, click the "Session URL" above, sign in as a guest (with your full name), and Adobe Connect will launch in your browser (or in the Adobe Connect application, should you choose to download it).</li> </ol>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>	Computer with a web browser Phone OR speakers/microphone attached to computer (for workshop audio) Internet speed of DSL or higher (>512 kbps)





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## Recommended Reading

We ask that participants at our workshops consume a small amount of pre-work prior to the start of the synchronous session so that it may focus more on activity and discussion than lecture. Accordingly, please read the following articles on our [Center for Teaching and Learning website](#):

1. [Open Educational Resources and Their Use in Higher Education](#) (1,035 words)
2. [Cognitive Load Theory: Structuring Learning Materials for Maximum Retention](#) (969 words)

From an institutional perspective, adopting an OER strategy has a number of advantages for both faculty as well as programs. As with other best practices in higher education (such as the promotion of academic integrity), there are both “top down” as well as “grassroots” approaches that work best when both are in play. The use of open educational resources is one of those best practices. “[Open Educational Resources and Their Use in Higher Education](#)” discusses the benefits that faculty receive from the implementation of OERs (the grassroots approach), but also provides guidance on how institutions can successfully implement an OER strategy (the top-down approach).

One of the key pedagogical best practices that are associated with implementing OERs, however, is that it encourages faculty to “chunk” their instructional materials: that is, to present students with discrete packages of content narrowly focused on the course’s learning objective(s) without extraneous material. OERs, after all, allow instructors to isolate any piece of content they’d like to use and include it in their course. “[Cognitive Load Theory: Structuring Learning Materials for Maximum Retention](#)” addresses the cognitive psychology behind the concept of chunking – an argument in favor of OER adoption.





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## Adobe Connect Tips

- If possible, do try to consume the recommended readings prior to the start of session, since the session will build on these materials.
- Be sure that you're in a quiet location with a good internet connection.
- Audio for the session may be done via phone or VOIP (computer microphone and speakers).
- Please mute your audio when you are not speaking. Whether you're using your phone or your computer for audio, headphones are strongly recommended, to reduce the chance of feedback or echoes.
- If using your computer's microphone and speakers, we recommend you arrive a minute or two early and run the Audio Setup Wizard. Once you're in the Adobe Connect room, you can run the wizard by clicking **Meeting > Audio Setup Wizard**.
- There may be polls, activities, and discussion. Please be prepared to participate, and don't hesitate to ask questions at any point!
- Be sure to sign in once you arrive so we know who has attended the session. Though the URL will be provided in the Adobe Connect room, you can also find it here:  
<https://form.jotformpro.com/learninghouse/fd-signin>

