

General Open Resources Guide

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Interested in building or reusing open courseware? Check out our [Open Course Resource Center](#) for everything you need to know to get started.

Questions? Contact David (david.rose@saylor.org)

COMMON RESOURCES

(t=textbook, a/v=lecture, s=supplementary [modules/notes/assignments] w=website, j=journals)

- [College Open Textbooks](#) [t]- Openly-licensed texts, booklets, web books, and learning modules
- [Open College Textbooks](#) [t] - Clearly-labeled licensing, very easy to use; somewhat limited catalog.
- [Global Text Project](#) [t] - Note that you can select multiple discipline areas while searching. This project has a modest, non-overwhelming list of resources
- [Saylor Bookshelf](#) [t] - Liberated versions of previously openly-licensed texts, and a repository of some other existing open texts.
- [Textbook Revolution](#) [t] - A number of openly-licensed textbooks across many disciplines.
- [Wikibooks](#) [t] - An imperfect and often incomplete resource, but worth a look.
- [Open Culture](#) [t, s, a-v] - A number of open-access textbooks, videos, and lessons.
- [The Orange Grove](#) [t, s, w] - Textbook Repository, with additional content.
- [Content Without Borders](#) [t, a/v, s, w, j] - This offering via Pearson aggregates a number of quality OER repositories in its collections, and allows for search of many others. The platform is the same (Equella) as that of The Orange Grove.
- [U. Minnesota Open Academics](#) [t] - A list of books; includes many of the titles above.
- [National Academies Press](#) [t, j] - Over 4,000 titles in STEM and some social sciences fields available for download. Primarily open-access vs. open-license.
- [The Online Books Page](#) [t] - UPenn Library listing of free books on the web; easy to browse
- [The Assayer](#) [t] - Extensive book listing curated by Ben Crowell of Light and Matter fame.
- [MERLOT](#) [t, a/v, s, w, j] - Reviewed materials linked from other sources. Note: approximately 5000 of MERLOT's 30,000 entries are licensed under Creative Commons. Use the advanced search feature to filter results, or begin to browse using the reductive categories on the left. Offers ability to search other institutions' catalogs as well ("federated search"). With practice, this is a very robust search tool.
- [Open Courseware Consortium - Advanced Search](#) [t, a/v, s] - This tool returns courseware suites from [participating institutions](#); note that the courses may or may not have learning resources openly available.
- [OER Commons](#) [t, a/v, s, w] - This has a very agile search function for finding materials across the open resource spectrum.
- [Creative Commons Search](#) [t, a/v, s, w] - Simple to use to search images, video, and websites that are (probably) openly-licensed.
- [Vimeo Creative Commons Search](#) [a/v] - First perform a simple search, then choose "Show advanced filters" from the right side of the screen. You can then apply different licenses, seeing live results for each one (without a full webpage refresh).
- [Compfight](#) [images] - This simple tool queries Flickr for Creative commons images.
- [The Open University](#) [s, w] - Modules (usually text-based) on various topics.
 - See especially: <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course> (complete list of learning units available,



arranged by discipline; great for browsing; search here: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn>).

- [Connexions](#) [t, s] - Modules-based open learning. Some modules, however, are actually longer texts that have been broken down. There are a few “hidden” textbooks in here (these will generally turn up in a textbook search using resources further above).
- [OpenScout](#) [t, a/v, s, w, j] - Run by the OpenScout Consortium and funded in part by the EU, this Beta site promises to enable “users to easily find, access, use and exchange open content for management education and training.”
- [Jorum](#) [t, a/v, s, w, j] - UK-based OER repository; much like OER Commons.
- [National Science Digital Library](#) (NSF) [t, a/v, s, w, j] - Includes multiple disciplines outside of STEM fields.
- [Academic Earth](#) [a/v] - Easily-searchable aggregator of university courses; may include transcripts and lecture notes. Licensing should be indicated.
- [YouTube Education](#) [a/v] - Collects lectures posted by universities and other institutions; often openly-licensed. Note that you can search for “creative commons” (use quotes) in addition to other search terms, but there is no open-license filter currently available.
- [Sophia](#) [a/v] - 25,000 tutorials in Arts, Humanities, Languages, and STEM. Many are openly-licensed.
- [MIT Open Courseware - Listing by Discipline](#) [t, a/v, s] - This is a mixed bag (not every course has a/v lectures, for example), but note that some of the lecture notes are excellent. If you wish to search for a very specific lecture topic, you might have better luck using the Consortium link above and restricting your search to MIT (or any other institution you choose)
- [Coursera](#) [t, a/v, s] - Free online courseware.
- [Udemy](#) - [t, a/v, s] Online courseware, some free..
- [Webcast Berkeley](#) [a/v] - a/v materials easily searchable by semester and department. Materials are generally available via YouTube or iTunes (indeed, more is available on iTunes). Selection not as good as MIT (See also: [UC Berkeley on YouTube](#), [UC Berkeley on iTunes](#))
- [Open Yale](#) [a/v] - Materials searchable by department on left-hand of screen
- [METU OCW](#) (Middle East Technical University) [a/v, s] - Many English-language courses with lecture notes, assignments, and videos.
- [Carnegie-Mellon Open Learning Initiative](#) [s] - Modules-based open learning, often with multimedia components.
- [Utah State OCW](#) [t, a/v, s]
- [Tufts University OCW](#) [t, a/v, s] - tends to focus on medicine and natural sciences.
- [Notre Dame OCW](#) [t, a/v, s] - tends to focus on humanities and social sciences.
- [Stanford \(iTunes RSS feeds\); Stanford Engineering Everywhere \(OCW\)](#) [t, a/v, s]
- [U. Nottingham](#) [t, s]
- [Khan Academy](#) [a/v, s] - Short a/v tutorials on specific skills and topics.
- [ibiblio](#) [t, s, j] - Online public library with resources in a variety of topics.
- [Public Knowledge Project](#) [j] - Wide range of journals in the Open Journal Systems.
- [Open Science Directory](#) [j] - 13,000 open-access science journals, with over 20,000 titles.
- [Free Chemistry Journals](#) [j] - Free, peer-reviewed journals.
- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) [j] - High-quality, scholarly journals index.
- [University of Colorado. Boulder Library](#) [j] - An extensive list of peer-reviewed open access journals.
- [Academic Journals](#) [j] - Lists open-access journals by discipline.
- [Open J-Gate](#) [j] - Scholarly journals index
- [HathiTrust Digital Library](#) [t, s, j] - Open-access, digitized scholarly materials from a vast library consortium.
- [University of Michigan Press](#) - Find the UMPress “collection” of open content on [HathiTrust](#).
- [RAND Corporation](#) [t, s, j] - RAND’s publications are generally open-access, and many are available for download.
- [eScholarship](#) [j] (University of California) - The open-access platform for UC. [Browse by journals](#).
- [Open Humanities Press](#) [t, j]
- [JSTOR Advanced Search](#) [j] - Around 500,000 articles from earlier content are now open access.
- [OpenDOAR](#) [t, s, w, j]- Open-access repositories (universities, etc.) index. Search for *contents* of



repositories (<http://www.opendoar.org/search.php>) or for the repositories themselves (<http://www.opendoar.org/find.php>).

- [Open Access Journals Search Engine \[j\]](#) - Alphabetical list of journals, records search.
- [Registry of Open Access Repositories \[t, j\]](#) - Easy browse/search of repositories.
- [DORAS \[t, j\]](#) - A mostly open license institutional repository for theses, working papers, and other research. Crosses disciplines.
- [Oxford Journals \[j\]](#) - Limited number of open-access journals, emphasis on STEM.
- [The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition](#) - International alliance of academic/research libraries with openly licensed articles/publications on the advancement of scholarly communication.
- [Alliance for Taxpayer Access](#) - Openly-licensed, peer-reviewed resources of taxpayer-funded research.
- [Internet Archive \[t, a/v, s, w, j\]](#) - Ability to search by material type, keyword, etc. Licensing can sometimes be an issue, but this is increasingly a good repository of public domain and orphaned items.

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

STEM

- [National Center for Biotechnology Information](#) (NCBI) - NIH-related organization
- [Siyavula Webbooks: Grades 10-12](#) - Math and Science books geared toward secondary. This site took over for South Africa's Free High School Science Textbooks.
- [INTECH open](#) - Rigorous, specific science texts
- [Free Tech Books](#) - Computer science and programming books especially
- [Free Chemistry Journals \[j\]](#) - Free, peer-reviewed journals.
- [The Open Textbook Repository \[t\]](#) - Management by Open Knowledge Foundation; limited listings cover algebra, calculus, econometrics, linear algebra, mathematical logic, measure theory, multivariate statistics, and probability.
- [National Academies Press](#) - More than 4,000 pdf publications from the National Academies (National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, National Resource Council).
- [Open Science Directory \[j\]](#) - 13,000 open-access science journals, with over 20,000 titles.
- [Public Library of Science](#) - Open access and often openly-licensed publisher of peer-reviewed science research
- [Project Euclid journals](#) (Duke and Cornell) - OA journals focusing on mathematics and statistics.
- [National Science Digital Library](#) (NSF) (also linked above)
- [Scholarpedia](#) - Peer-reviewed articles on science topics
- [Encyclopedia of Earth](#) - "an electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society. The Encyclopedia is a free, expert-reviewed collection of articles"
- [Ars Digita University \(ADUni\)](#) - Full courses based on MIT's CS curriculum
- [Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Science OER \[t, a/v, s\]](#)- CC BY-NC-SA Courseware in the following fields: Energy/Mineral Engineering, Geography, Geosciences, Materials Science/Engineering, Meteorology, EMS Writing Center.
- [MIT Blossoms](#) - videos on science and math
- [MIT Mathlets](#) - Java-based applets
- [MIT Technical Services Group](#) - Video learning aids; from the site: "The Technical Services Group (TSG) at MIT's Department of Physics provides technical and teaching support for undergraduate courses at MIT."
- [PhET Simulations](#) - Quality, openly-licensed science simulations.



- [iBioSeminars](#) - One-off videos from top educators, funded by NSF, HHMI, et al.
- [NIST](#) - (Mostly) Public Domain materials in bio, chem, math, and physics.
- [Virtual Labs](#) - Via India's National Mission on Education through ICT, approximately 30 online labs (openly licensed) in computer science, chemistry, and engineering. You can view a condensed version (made in-house by us) [here](#).
- [SpringerOpen](#) - Open-access journals, articles, and some openly licensed books.
- [Wiley Open Access](#)- Open-access journals focusing on the biological, chemical, and health sciences.
- [SPIE](#) (engineering) - Currently very limited open-access, peer-reviewed articles in engineering.
- [Worldwide Center of Mathematics](#) - Some textbooks are available for free.
- [CK12](#) - Openly-licensed textbooks, some a-v content, and modules mostly on STEM content (limited humanities content). For K-12 grade level.

Humanities & Social Sciences

- [Ohio State University Press](#) - Open Access - Out of print books on specific topics; we have permission to host these.
- [Penn State Romance Studies](#) - open-access scholarly monographs (this line of publications is an experiment by PSU Press in OA models for marketing content).
- [America.gov publications](#)
- [University of Pittsburgh Press Digital Editions](#) - Open-access publications comprising (thus far) the "Pitt Latin American Series, Pitt Series in Russian and East European Studies, and Composition, Literacy and Culture", most of which are out of print.
- [OAPEN](#) (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) - academic books in the humanities and social sciences.
- [Learning from WOEK](#) (U. Plymouth) - Content repository for workplace/professional development OER.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Google Search

[Google Advanced search](#) is a little quirky, but can be useful with some practice. To access it, you will need to actually start a search, then select the gear icon in the upper right. Note that you are able to limit your search by usage rights; "free to use or share" will return the most openly-licensed results. Searching within the [.edu](#) extension can find great hidden resources produced by scores of academics. One of my favorite tricks for trimming results even in a standard search is to exclude unwanted domains; in the search bar, you put "-site:" followed by whatever you wish to exclude; for example, -site:wikibooks.org. You can add as many of these into the search bar as you'd like. These tips are nicely outlined in this [Google pdf](#) from [Google for Educators](#). If you're in the mood for something much more in depth, take a look at HackCollege's ["Get More Out of Google" infographic](#).

Power Searching with Google

<http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/course>

An investment of a couple hours will pay off down the road! This free and engaging course from Google combines short videos with quick-fire activities.

