

OPEN ACCESS & OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The Budapest Open Access Initiative defined Open Access (OA) as the "availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself..."

OPEN ACCESS

OA refers to freely available online information, such as research articles. OA resources are free of charge; authors keep their copyright; there is no embargo to the information; and an open license (such as Creative Commons) is usually applied.

OER

Open Educational Resources or OER are educational materials that are shared at no cost so that the public can freely use, share, and build upon content to better serve all students. Open textbooks and open courses are included under the OER umbrella.

TYPES OF OA

Green OA = the work (usually post or preprints) is made freely available in a repository.

Gold OA = the final version of the work is made freely available by the publisher, typically by publishing in an Open Access journal and making the article available under an open license (such as Creative Commons).

5 R'S IN OER

Retain – Permission to make, own, and control copies of the content;

Reuse – Content can be reused in its unaltered original format;

Revise – Content can be modified or altered to suit specific needs - the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself;

Remix – Content can be adapted with other similar content to create something new;

Redistribute – Content can be shared with anyone else in its original or altered format.

WHY OA IS IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION

OA supports research in universities. OA policies at universities specify how institutions can support researchers in making their work openly available in either repositories or Open Access journals. Public OA policies also help faculty and students ensure that publicly funded research (usually done in universities) be made available under Open Access terms. For students, OA resources are free of charge and available after graduation for lifelong learning.

WHY OER ARE IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION

OER provide teachers and students with permissions and the resulting tools that make education more affordable. OER also allow for equity and innovation as teachers try to maximize access to effective educational resources for all.

COMPARING OA AND OER

OA and OER are closely related. Both use open licenses (such as Creative Commons) that make OA and OER freely available online. Likewise, OA and OER are both used in educational settings:

- OA allows for university mandates that specify how the institution can support researchers in making their work openly available;
- OA also promotes public policies that endorse publicly funded research that is made freely available online;
- OER refer to teaching and learning materials that are made freely available for the public to use, share, and build upon the content to better serve all students.

The scopes of OA and OER are different, however. OA generally deals with academic publishing. It allows for authors to publish in peer reviewed journals or self-archive in repositories. OER are for use in the teaching/learning setting of both K-12 and the university.