

# From Course Materials to Community Voices: Exploring Open Content with the Library



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# Open Textbooks & Course Materials

- Freely available, openly licensed textbooks & course materials.
- Allows remixing, adaptation, & customization including AI-enhanced supplements.
- Example: Customized psychology textbook with localized case studies & AI-generated quiz bank.
- Benefit: Immediate, equitable student access from day one.
- Trade-off: Requires instructor time vs. turnkey publisher content; work with peers, instructional designers (IDs), or librarians.





# Open Journals & Faculty-Led Publishing

- No-cost scholarly journals managed by the library, peers, academic programs, or a combo.
- Includes undergraduate research journals, zines, & review publications.
- Benefit: Free access to peer-reviewed research and publishing.
- Encourages student authorship & scholarly engagement.
- Trade-off: Faculty, librarians, or IDs assume platform management, editorial responsibilities or rights management; some pubs not accepted by the discipline for P&T.

# Open Media for Teaching & Learning

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Multimedia resources:  
open videos, podcasts,  
& other instructional  
content

Supports Universal  
Design for Learning  
(UDL) through multiple  
formats

Example: Short  
animated videos  
explaining complex  
concepts; podcast style  
summary of the text

Benefit: Enhances  
engagement &  
comprehension;  
addresses alternate  
learning styles

Trade-off: Accessibility  
(captions, transcripts)  
requires additional  
effort; rights  
management

Ask a  
Librarian!

# Open Assignments & Pedagogy

Shared syllabi, assignments, lesson plans, & grading rubrics

Includes renewable assignments with public-facing outputs

Example: Students editing Wikipedia or creating digital exhibits

Benefit: Improves teaching quality & reduces prep time

Trade-off: Requires careful navigation of privacy & student consent



# Institutional Repository Publishing

- Digital platforms that preserve & share institutional scholarship
- Includes student work, faculty publications, & datasets
- Benefit: Provides permanent, citable access to research
- Enhances visibility for students & programs
- Trade-off: Copyright clearance & permissions management required

*Ask a  
Librarian!*

# ETDs: Open Graduate Scholarship

- Electronic theses & dissertations available in repositories (not from vendor-supplied databases unless open publishing is clearly stated).
- Provide models for graduate-level research & writing.
- Benefit: Free access to highly specialized, current scholarship.
- Supports student learning & research skills.
- Trade-off: Dense content & potential embargo restrictions; 3<sup>rd</sup> party content may have terms of use.



# Community-Focused Open Publishing

Public scholarship & community-generated content is often open

Includes local history, oral histories, & digital storytelling

Example: Use an open app like the place-based history platform, Clio.

Benefit: Connect students to real-world, local engagement; create new content

Trade-off: Complex rights, permissions, & attribution requirements

*Ask a Librarian!*

# Key Takeaways for Faculty:

- Diverse OER materials will expand access, equity, & innovation in teaching while supporting UDL learning styles.
- Libraries provide infrastructure, expertise, & partnership.
- Open content supports student success & engagement.
- Adoption requires balancing benefits with time & labor.
- Start small: adopt, adapt, or collaborate.
- Collaborate with the library, instructional designers, students, & peers.



# *Don't do this alone!*

**Talk to your Open Learning WV  
& OER Convening Colleagues.**

**Attend everything & ask for  
help!**

**Check with your campus  
librarians, IDs, & peers.**

**Session Handout & Slides:**

