



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Open for Good: OER at the University of Edinburgh





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2001

Wikipedia launches.
Creative Commons
founded.

2008

**Cape Town Open
Education Declaration.**

2009

**Jisc UKOER
Programme.**

2010

**First UK OER
Conference.**

2014

**Scottish Open Education
Declaration** drafted.

2015

OER Service
launched at the
University of
Edinburgh.

2002

The term “**open educational
resources**” adopted at UNESCO
forum on the Impact of
Open Courseware for Higher
Education in Developing
Countries.

MIT OpenCourseWare pilot.

2013

Open Scotland Summit.

University of Edinburgh
launches first **MOOCs**.

University of Edinburgh
partners with **FutureLearn**.

2012

First UNESCO World OER
Congress results in the **Paris
OER Declaration.**

EdX, Coursera, & FutureLearn
MOOC providers founded.

University of Edinburgh
partners with **Coursera**.

2017

23 Things for Digital Knowledge wins **LILAC's Credo Digital Literacy Award**.

Second UNESCO World OER Congress adopts **Ljubljana OER Action Plan** to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 for quality education.

2018

Cape Town +10 - Ten directions to move open education forward.

Open.Ed Newsletter launches.

University of Edinburgh wins **Wikimedia UK Partnership of the Year Award**.

2021

OER Policy reviewed and updated.

University of Edinburgh wins Open Education Global Awards for Excellence for Open Policy and Open Curation, for OER collection on TES Resources. Dr Melissa Highton wins **Open Leadership Award**.

Publication of first Open Textbook on the new **Edinburgh Diamond** open publishing service.

2019

UNESCO Recommendation on OER adopted.

2016

University of Edinburgh **OER Policy** approved by Learning & Teaching Committee.

Launch of **Open.Ed** website.

Wikimedian in Residence appointed.

OER16 Conference hosted by University of Edinburgh.

Media Hopper Create launched.

First **Open Content Curation Intern** employed.

Open.Ed wins **Wikimedia UK's Partnership of the Year Award** for the OER16 Open Culture Conference.

University of Edinburgh partners with **EdX**.

2020

COVID-19 pandemic disrupts education for millions. UNESCO launches a Call for Joint Action: Supporting Learning and Knowledge Sharing through OER.

COVID-19 Critical Care MOOC launched 3 weeks after UK first goes into lockdown.

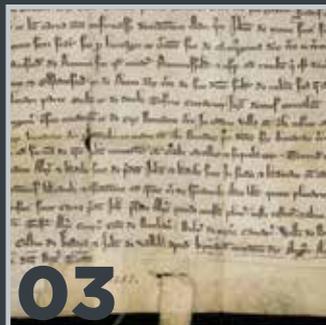
Open.Ed shares suite of open policies for learning and teaching.

During Covid-19 lockdowns, downloads of University of Edinburgh OERs on TES Resources increase by 60%.

2022

23 Things wins **MERLOT's Instructional and Design Technology Classics Award**

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01

**Foreword by
Dr Melissa
Highton**



The huge wealth of open learning materials that have been shared by University of Edinburgh staff and students has more than matched the hopes we had when we launched the OER Service in 2015. The intervening years have seen significant growth of digital education, lifelong learning, open educational resources (OER) and online delivery to on- and off-campus students. We now have a collection of thousands of media assets and dozens of massive open online courses which can be used, re-used, adapted and re-shared in sustainable ways.

We have taken care to build options for choosing Creative Commons licences into the workflows of our biggest learning technology systems, making it as easy as possible for content creators to make this choice. We have policy in place to support colleagues, and training in how to do it right. The services are designed to be cost effective and alongside our channels for OER at scale, our curated sets of OER on Open.Ed showcase the best values which OER can bring to the University.

The OER team work closely with our big learning technology projects, and with small groups and individuals to see opportunities for OER to diversify and decolonise their curriculum. Our materials reach new audiences and go directly into the hands of teachers who are empowered to teach in new ways and engage in co-creation with students. Since University of Edinburgh Students' Association were a large part of the driving force behind the initiative originally it has been particularly nice to have Open Content Creation Interns working with us each summer to create and curate materials and to learn about how OER contributes to the University's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The story of OER at the University of Edinburgh covers many different uses of OER in teaching and learning, both the creation of materials for sharing, and the re-use and adaptation of materials created elsewhere. The generous position colleagues take to openly licensing their materials is one of the classiest things about this institution. Thank you to all who do.

Dr Melissa Highton, Assistant Principal and Director of Learning, Teaching and Web Services

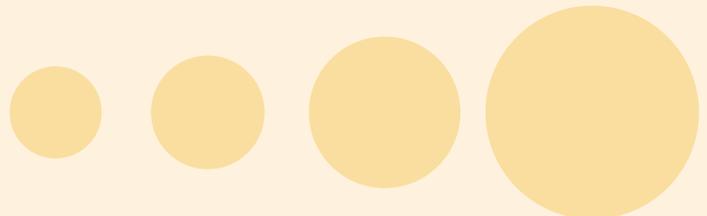
02

**Open for Good:
The Story of OER
at the University
of Edinburgh**

At the University of Edinburgh, we believe that the creation of open knowledge and OER are in keeping with our institutional vision and values, to discover knowledge and make the world a better place, while ensuring that our teaching and research is diverse, inclusive, accessible to all and relevant to society.

In 2015 the University was already seen as a world leader and early adopter of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), having joined the Coursera consortium in 2012 and developed a number of pioneering free short online courses. Building on this success, and the University's strategic vision to increase the provision of world-leading online distance learning and embed open education across the institution, Dr Melissa Highton led the development of a new vision for OER at the University of Edinburgh. This vision builds on the history of the Edinburgh Settlement, our excellent education and research collections, traditions of the Scottish Enlightenment and the University's civic mission. Edinburgh University Students' Association were also instrumental in encouraging the University to support engagement with OER.

To support this vision, Information Services Group established a central OER Service in 2015 and in 2016, the University approved a new OER Policy. Based in Learning, Teaching and Web Services, the OER Service manages Open.Ed; a one-stop-shop that provides staff and students with advice and guidance on creating and using OER and engaging with open education. The service runs a digital skills programme focused on copyright literacy, open licencing, OER, and open education. We offer support directly to Schools and Colleges and work closely with the University's Wikimedian in Residence.



The OER Service provides access to a range of channels to share OERs and enable their discovery and use by others, including Media Hopper Create, TES Resources, Flickr, and Sketchfab. To highlight the open educational resources created by staff and students across the University, we have a showcase of Edinburgh's OERs on Open.Ed, and an Open Media Bank where we share high quality media content created for the University's MOOCs and free short online courses.



The University consolidated its reputation as a world leader in open education when it hosted the 7th OER Conference in 2016. Co-chaired by Dr Melissa Highton and OER Service Manager Lorna M. Campbell, OER16: Open Culture focused on the value proposition of embedding open culture in the context of institutional strategies for learning, teaching, and research. OER16 was the first OER conference to feature a Wikimedia in Education strand and received Wikimedia UK's Partnership of the Year award.

In 2016 the OER Service welcomed our first Open Content Curation Intern. We have continued to employ student interns every summer since and continue to see student engagement as being a fundamental aspect of open education.

Enhancing digital knowledge has always been a cornerstone of the University's vision for OER and in 2017, 23 Things for Digital Knowledge, an open online course created by OER Service Advisor Stephanie (Charlie) Farley won the Credo Digital Award for Information Literacy.

In 2018 the OER Service launched a new Open.Ed newsletter and in 2019 we ran a series of blog posts and webinars for International Open Education Week.

Our strategic support for OER enabled the University to respond rapidly to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Colleagues from across the University worked with our Masters in Critical Care team to rapidly migrate open content from their course to FutureLearn, where it was freely accessed by over 50,000 healthcare professionals at the front line of critical care. As schools closed, the OER Service used social media channels to



share free teaching and learning materials to help parents home-schooling their families. Caring for mental health at a time of unprecedented stress became vitally important so the OER Service also shared a wide range of content to support mental health and wellbeing.

Addressing climate change and environmental sustainability are the key global challenges of our era. Coinciding with the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference 2021, the University launched the Learning for a Sustainable Future MOOC and the OER Service disseminated a wide range of OERs relating to environment and sustainability through Open.Ed

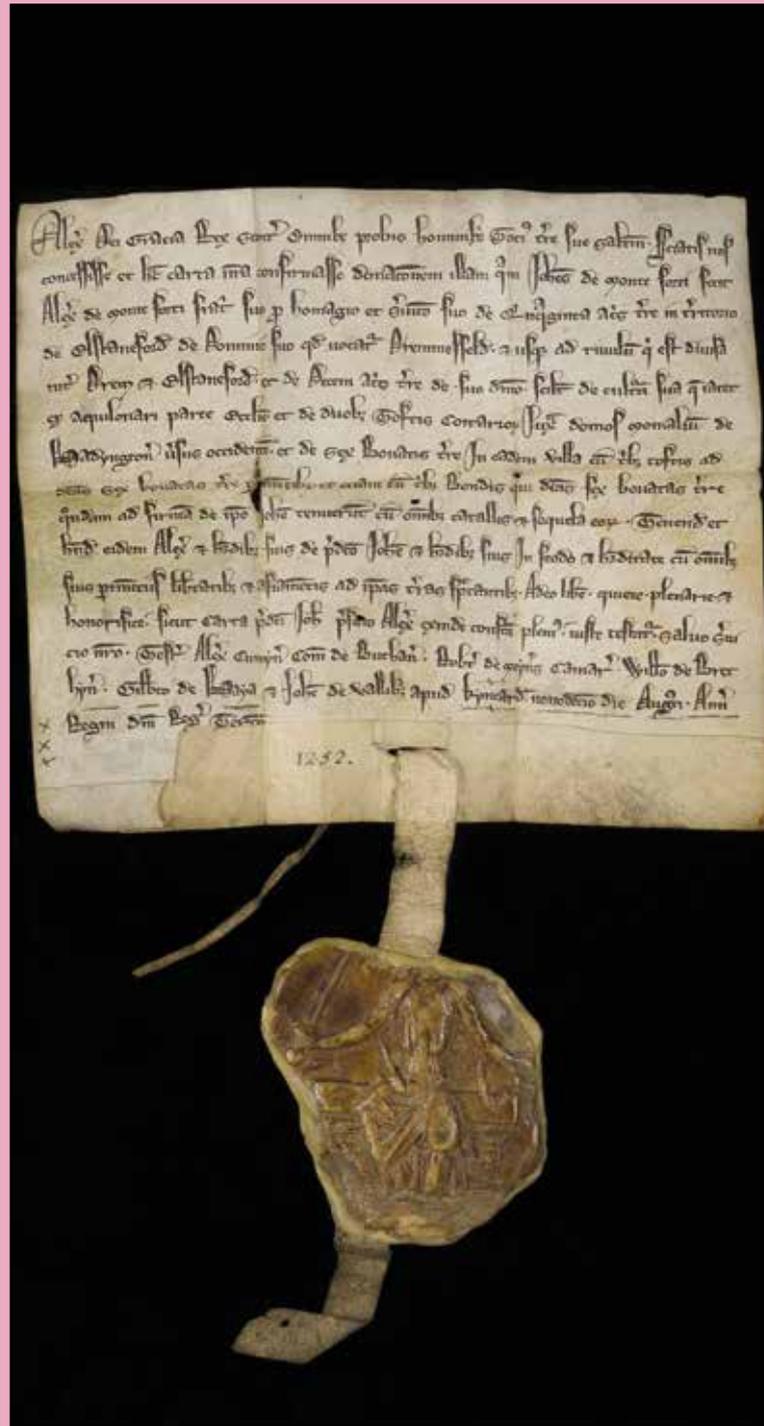
and Climatehub.uk. In 2021 we also updated our OER Policy, strengthening the University's strategic commitment to open education and achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. This commitment to openness was recognised in the 2021 Open Education Global Awards for Excellence when the University of Edinburgh won three awards for open policy, open curation, and open leadership.

Visit the OER Service and find out more here: <https://open.ed.ac.uk/>



03

Open Policies



To support and encourage our staff and students to engage with the creation and use of OER, the University's Learning and Teaching Committee approved an Open Educational Resources Policy in January 2016, placing open education and OER squarely in the domain of teaching and learning. The development of this policy, which was adapted from a policy created by the University of Leeds, was led by Stuart Nicol, Head of Educational Design and Engagement.

Our OER Policy encourages staff and students to use, create, and publish OERs to enhance the quality of the student experience, increase the provision of learning opportunities for all, improve teaching practices and enrich our shared knowledge commons. The policy is informative and permissive; it encourages colleagues to engage with OER and provides reassurance that they have permission to share their teaching and learning resources under open licence.

In September 2021, Education Committee approved a revised and updated OER Policy. This updated policy includes a new definition of OER from the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources. The update also brings the policy in line with our Lecture Recording and Virtual Classroom Policies.

In keeping with our commitment to open knowledge, the University has shared these policies as part of a suite of influential open licensed teaching and learning policies to benefit institutions across the Higher Education sector. These policies were awarded Open Education Global's 2021 Open Policy Award, which recognises policies with a clear impact of public investment in the development of open knowledge through the efficient use and reuse of resources for the public good. Our OER Policy also features as a case study in the Irish National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's Guide to Developing Enabling Policies for Digital and Open Teaching and Learning, and our Lecture Recording Policy was submitted to the Association for Learning Technology's Framework for Ethical Learning Technology as an exemplar of good practice.

Find our OER Policy here: <https://open.ed.ac.uk/about/>



04

Agenda for Sustainable Development



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030 sets out our vision to make the world a better place. A key focus is our Social and Civic Responsibility Plan, which is closely aligned to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 17 goals humanity must achieve to ensure peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources also highlights the key role that OER can play in building more open and inclusive knowledge societies, and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

In line with the University's strategy and the UNESCO OER Recommendation, our OER policy recognises the potential of OER and open knowledge to contribute to achieving the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many of the OERs shared through Open.Ed directly address these goals. Topics include Sustainable Global Food Systems, Democracy in Theory and Practice, Tackling Mental Health, Introduction to Open Education Practice, LGBT+ Healthcare, Sustainability and Conservation, and Learning for a Sustainable Future. These free and open resources are tagged by SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) for ease of discovery and collated on the Open.Ed website here: <https://open.ed.ac.uk/sustainable-development-goal-oers/>

05

Open Resources for Schools





The University has a long-standing commitment to knowledge exchange and community outreach that extends beyond Higher Education to the school sector. Through TES Resources, the OER Service shares a growing collection of interdisciplinary teaching and learning materials, aimed at primary and secondary school level, covering topics as diverse as climate change, environmental science, food production, sustainable fashion, biodiversity, LGBTQ+ issues, sustainability, and outdoor learning. These fun and creative resources are free and open licensed and designed to be easily customisable for different learning scenarios. All are accompanied by Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels and Scottish Curriculum for Excellence learning objectives and outcomes.

Many of these innovative and engaging resources have been co-created by GeoScience Outreach students working in collaboration with GeoScience colleagues and Open Content Curation student interns supported by the OER Service.

Our free and open resources for schools have now been downloaded over 70 thousand times and many have received 5-star reviews. In 2020 with the start of Covid-19 lockdowns and an increase in home-schooling, resource downloads from TES increased by over 60%, demonstrating the broad reach and impact of these OERs which have been shared with parents, teachers and institutions worldwide.

In 2021 the success of this collection was recognised by Open Education Global's Open Curation Repository Award.

You can browse our open resources for schools here:
<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/shop/OpenEd>

User comments:

Volcano, Continents, and Oceans (Interdisciplinary Learning):

I like this resource because it covers the basics of volcanoes and the earth's structure as well as opportunities to go into greater depth via the links if needed. I am looking forward to using it.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Guidance Booklet:

Some great, positive tips and ideas for students to take home!

Kind Clothing:

Sustainable Fashion (Interdisciplinary Learning):

I found this material extremely helpful and my students loved it, thanks!!

Pokemon Average Posters:

Incredibly useful, especially the fact that you provided editable versions.

06



Student Engagement

We see student engagement as being fundamental to open education. Engaging with open education and the creation of open educational resources helps students to develop a wide range of core disciplinary competencies and transferable attributes including:

- **Digital and information literacy skills**
- **Writing as public outreach**
- **Collaborative working**
- **Information synthesis**
- **Copyright literacy**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Source evaluation**
- **Data science**

The OER Service works with colleagues across the University to provide our students with a wide range of opportunities to co-create open educational resources and participate in open education projects and initiatives.



Student Engagement

GeoScience Outreach



GeoScience Outreach is a project-based course that attracts students from a range of degree programmes including Geology, Ecological and Environmental Sciences, Geophysics, Geography, Archaeology and Physics. In collaboration with external clients such as schools, museums, science centres, and community groups, students design and co-create reusable resources for STEM engagement. These resources include classroom teaching materials, websites, community events, presentations, and materials for museums and visitor centres.

In 2015, Stuart Nicol and Dr Melissa Highton led a discussion about the legacy of the GeoScience Outreach student projects, leading to an ongoing collaboration between GeoScience and the OER Service. A key element of the Outreach course is to develop resources with a legacy that can be reused by other communities and organisations. The OER Service provides students with support and skills development to enable them to create re-usable open educational resources, which are further developed by Open Content Curation Interns employed by the OER Service. These resources are shared through Open.Ed and TES Resources where they can be adapted and reused by other schoolteachers and learners. Sharing these resources under open licence provides a legacy for these projects and enables students to showcase their knowledge to prospective employers or for application for future study.



Quotes:

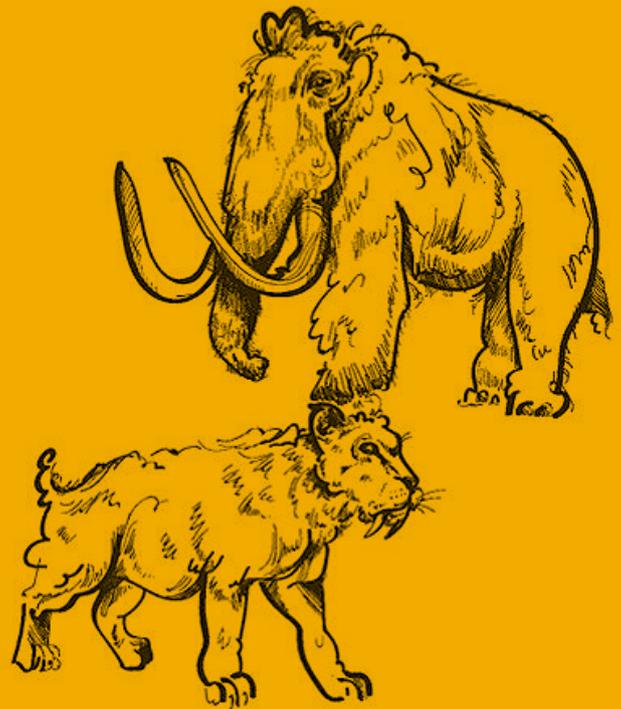
Jakob Assman ‘Nothing goes to waste in nature’, A series of resources for primary school children with complex behavioural and emotional needs, focused on the organic matter cycle with lots of hands-on interactive activities.

“My GeoScience Outreach project at Harmeny School was fun and challenging at the same time. I learned about communicating science to children and teachers, time management, how to survive a day in the classroom and - of course - how rewarding it can be!”

Roseanne Smith: ‘The sea-level story’ A series of resources, lesson plans and hands-on experiments for S2 students exploring the causes of sea level change over the past 20,000 years.

“The Outreach course allowed me to develop new skills in communication, leadership, and project-management, and encouraged creativity and initiative in a way that other courses didn’t. This, together with the experience of working in schools, really helped build my confidence throughout my final year, and helped me secure jobs at Our Dynamic Earth and the Edinburgh International Science Festival after graduating.”

Open Content Curation Interns



Since 2016 the OER Service has employed undergraduate students to work with us over the summer as Open Content Curation Interns. These internships provide students with an opportunity to improve their digital skills and contribute educational resources to the global commons. Working closely with colleagues from GeoScience and the OER Service, our interns review resources created by GeoScience Outreach students and prepare them to be shared under Creative Commons licence on TES Resources and Open. Ed. Our interns are crucial to the success of our collection of open resources for schools on TES Resources.

Students are also encouraged to reflect on their internships in regular blog posts and to get involved in other open knowledge initiatives such as Wikipedia editathons. Some of our interns have gone on to run their own editathons and to win awards for their work.

The Edinburgh Award is a programme that students can undertake alongside a particular activity and our interns have chosen to complete the award with their internship. The Award aims to recognise student involvement in these activities and enhance these experiences.



Students' comments:

“Open education is the future, and I am both proud of my university for embracing it, and glad that I can contribute even in a small way. Because every resource we release could be a life changed. And that makes it all worth it.”

Martin Tasker

(Open Content Curator Intern 2016)

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/a-students-perspective-on-open-education/>

“Over the last 2.75 months, I’ve had the pleasure of working with a variety of open educational resources and, even better, a load of different people. Alongside topping up my primary level Geography knowledge, I have acquired buckets of experience in copyright and licensing, social media, networking, teamwork, and how to effectively organise a workload over an extended period of time.”

Cecily Plascott

(Open Content Curator Intern, 2018)

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/end-of-an-internship/>

Student Engagement



Digital Futures for Learning



Digital Futures for Learning is part of the University of Edinburgh's MSc in Digital Education. Students undertaking this course are required to create an OER that will be of relevance to education professionals and Masters-level students working in the fields of digital education, learning technology, digital futures, and e-learning. Course leader Dr Jen Ross introduced this OER assignment to encourage students to critically evaluate the implications of educational trends and to consider the needs, requirements, and expertise of their peers. Creating genuinely open resources that can be reused and repurposed requires careful attention to issues such as structure, accessibility, audience, and licensing. Students need to critically consider and apply their learning and in doing so, are able to create practical, useful, and re-usable artefacts while demonstrating a range of transferable attributes and competencies.

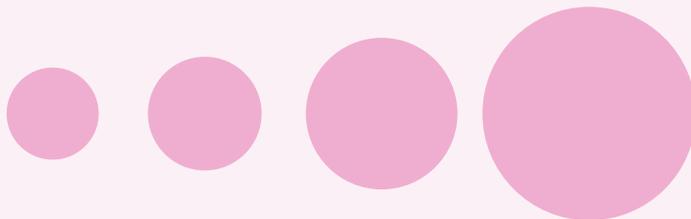


Course leader's comments

“Experiencing first-hand what it means to engage in open educational practice gives students an appetite to really push their thinking about their topics, and about openness. The creation of OERs provides a platform for students to share their learning, and this can have ongoing value for them, even beyond the course.”

“OER assignments on Digital Futures for Learning become part of the course itself, and they help peers engage meaningfully with new aspects of the course themes. Each OER benefits the student who creates it, and also students who participate in it.”

Dr Jen Ross



LGBT+ Medical Resources



Although knowledge of LGBT+ health and of the sensitivities needed to treat LGBT+ patients are valuable skills for qualifying doctors, these issues are not well-covered in the Medical curricula. Using materials from the commons, this collaborative project worked with undergraduate students to develop a suite of resources covering lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual health. The project remixed and repurposed resources originally created by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Ohio, and then contributed these resources back to the commons as Creative Commons licensed OER. New open resources including digital stories recorded from patient interviews and resources for Secondary School children of all ages were also created and released as OER.

Access LGBT+ Healthcare 101 here: <https://open.ed.ac.uk/lgbt-healthcare-101/>



LGBT+ Healthcare 101 course creators by Calum Hunter, Matthew Twomey, Derrick NG, Navina Senthilkumar and Eleanor Dow.



Quotes:

Reflecting on the continued value of these resources 5 years after they were first created, Dr. Jeni Harden, Senior Lecturer in Social Science and Health commented:

“It can be difficult to find short clips that summarise what you are teaching, it takes a lot of time to find. Resources like these interview videos have a fairly long life-span. They’re not so time dependent to lose their value quickly.

Medical students are amazing. I love working with them so much. Part of the reasons for the doing of the project was for the students to gain experience.”

TES Resources comment

“Helpful thanks. Professional production. 38 questions with quiz ABC answers. The students loved it! Contemporary and relevant examples.”

Student Engagement



Open eTextbooks for Access to Music Education





Open eTextbooks for Access to Music Education was a Student Experience Grant funded project, that brought together staff and students from the Reid School of Music, Library & University Collections, and the OER Service. The goal was to co-create an open etextbook by repurposing open content originally created for the Fundamentals of Music Theory MOOC and redeveloped for an on campus blended learning course. This course covers the fundamentals of Western music theory, addresses global decolonisation issues around music theory and education, and provides learners with the skills to read, write and understand Western music notation.

The project enabled our student partners to develop digital and copyright literacy skills, an understanding of OER and open etextbooks, familiarity with ebook applications, and experience of working with educational media and content. Their input enhanced the original teaching materials and brought about further teaching and learning enhancement.

We also evaluated a range of ebook platforms, including the University's own Edinburgh Diamond service, and gained experience of the practicalities of creating open textbooks. This is particularly valuable at a time when universities are moving from print to digital textbooks and are facing rising textbook licensing costs.

We hope the publication of *Fundamentals of Music Theory* provides a proof of concept for colleagues around the University to shift towards the use of sustainable open textbooks. Open textbooks have the potential to benefit the University by reducing textbook costs, benefit staff by providing access to easily customisable open textbooks, and benefit students by providing free, high quality digital learning materials.

Download our open textbook here: <https://doi.org/10.2218/ED.9781912669226>

Quotes:



“In terms of the quality of teaching and learning that these students have received, I believe that they’ve had great benefit from the reflective cycle behind this etextbook project, where the student interns’ input and development of my original teaching materials has brought about further T&L enhancement. I also expect this etextbook to be an important asset in the future for on-site students.”

Dr Nikki Moran, Reid School of Music.

“This project has got me inspired towards creating an independent OER project in music theory based on the ABRSM theory syllabus. To achieve this new goal of mine, I look forward to deploying skills developed on this project such as collaboration, research, design thinking, and other technical skills...I look forward to engaging with other opportunities within and beyond the University of Edinburgh to learn and contribute meaningfully towards music education projects.”

Ifeanyichukwu Ezinmadu,
BMus student intern.

Wikimedia in the Curriculum



The University of Edinburgh was the first university in the UK to employ a university-wide Wikimedian in Residence, as part of our institutional strategy to develop information and digital literacy skills. Wikipedia is the world's biggest open educational resource and the gateway through which millions of people seek access to knowledge.

Working together with our Wikimedian, Ewan McAndrew, schools and colleges across the University have integrated Wikipedia and Wikidata editing assignments into their courses. Editing Wikipedia provides valuable opportunities for students to develop their digital research and communication skills and enables them to contribute to the creation and dissemination of open knowledge. Writing articles that will be publicly accessible and live on after the end of their assignment has proven to be highly motivating for students. They can see that their contribution will benefit the huge audience that consults Wikipedia, plugging gaps in coverage, and bringing to light hidden histories, significant figures, and important concepts and ideas. This makes for a valuable and inspiring teaching and learning experience that enhances the digital literacy, research and communication skills of both staff and students. Twelve courses now include Wikimedia assignments including Reproductive Biology, Translation Studies, World Christianity, Korean Studies, and Design Informatics.

Our Wikimedian in Residence also works directly with students through editathons and internships. This work has been recognised by a number of awards including the 2019 Herald Higher Education Award for Wikimedia in the Curriculum and the 2021 Open Education Global Award for student intern Hannah Rothman.

Find out more about the work of our Wikimedian in Residence: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/help-consultancy/is-skills/wikimedia>



Quotes:

“By learning how to contribute articles to Wikipedia, students and staff become better able to evaluate how knowledge is constructed, curated, and contested online. Alongside this, editing Wikipedia gives room for valuable development for students’ research and communication skills, enabling them to make genuine contributions to knowledge.”

Ewan McAndrew, Wikimedian in Residence

“I feel the social potential of Wikipedia to inform people’s perspectives on the world really lies in correcting imbalances in the representation of that world. People should try to make Wikipedia accurately represent the diversity of the world around us, the diversity of history, and the diversity of historical scholarship.”

Tomas Sanders, Open Content Curation Intern and History student

07

For the Common Good



The University of Edinburgh's vision for OER has three strands: For the Common Good, Edinburgh at its Best, and Edinburgh's Treasures.

Our vision For the Common Good is to enable staff and students to share the teaching materials they create as a routine part of their work at the University as OER, to provide a showcase to highlight these resources to enrich the University and the sector, and to support colleagues to find and use high quality teaching materials developed within and beyond the University.

The OER Service works with staff and students across the University to surface innovative educational resources, ensuring they can be released under an appropriate open licence and shared online for discovery and reuse. We have over 180 For the Common Good resources and collections shared in our OER Showcase.

Foundations for All These CC BY licensed videos were created by Dr Michael Gallagher, Moray House School of Education and Sport, as part of an action-based project to evaluate the implementation of a blended-learning Foundations for All degree for refugee scholars in Kampala and Kiryandongo, Uganda. The programme equips refugee scholars, who have had their education disrupted, with skills and a qualification required to begin an undergraduate degree.

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/foundations-for-all/>

Scientific Method and Study Design Skills This series of CC BY videos, created by Dr Jill MacKay for the University of Edinburgh's Global Academy for Agriculture and Food Security, covers a range of professional skills for agri-food scientists including an overview of the scientific method, an introduction to data and study design techniques. <https://open.ed.ac.uk/scientific-method-study-design-skills/>

Introduction to Python These CC BY course materials, including slides and videos, were created by the University of Edinburgh's Digital Skills & Training Service. Using Jupyter notebooks, they cover the background to the Python programming language, variable types and comparison operators. Introduction to Python is our most popular and widely downloaded OER.

https://open.ed.ac.uk/introduction_to_python/



08

Edinburgh at its Best



Edinburgh at its Best showcases the highest quality open learning and teaching resources created by colleagues across the University, sharing them as open courseware, to make them available to learners and teachers and to enhance the University's reputation as a world leader in digital education.

The OER Service works closely with the Online Course Production service to embed open processes and workflows to ensure that the high-quality educational materials created for our free short online courses are open, sustainable, and accessible to all. Over 700 videos from our open online courses can be downloaded from our Open Media Bank and many are also available from our OER Showcase.

Sustainable Global Food Systems

These CC BY SA videos and podcasts from our Sustainable Global Food Systems MOOC examine food security from a food systems perspective, exploring issues such as the environmental impact of food production and the public health implications of current and future diets. These introductory resources are for anyone who is interested in the key impacts that food can have on the environment and society.

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/sustainable-global-food-systems/>

Christian Muslim Relations

These CC BY SA videos and podcasts are part of a four-week course from the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, which introduces the academic study of Christian-Muslim relations. These resources discuss key historical moments, encouraging viewers to compare the teachings of both the Bible and the Qur'an, and to start learning about the everlasting theological debates that concern Christian-Muslim relations.

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/christian-muslim-relations/>

COVID-19 Critical Care: Application and Understanding

These learning resources are designed for frontline clinical staff caring for critically ill patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The information in these resources is to support those refreshing critical care knowledge and skills, newly qualified doctors, those who are upskilling, and those returning to acute clinical services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/covid-19-critical-care-application-and-understanding/>

09



Edinburgh's Treasures



The Centre for Research Collections (CRC) curates the University's special collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, art and historic musical instruments, many of which are shared openly to Scotland, the UK and around the world. The OER Service highlights significant digitised collections of unique public domain and open-licensed cultural heritage resources from CRC, for use in teaching, learning and research.

Eric Lucey Film Collection

A collection of digitised films created by University of Edinburgh biologist and scientific film pioneer Eric Lucey during the 1950s and 60s. Lucey made use of new film techniques, including polarised light and advanced high-speed cameras, to capture timelapse film of minerals crystallising, plants unfurling, and the first detailed slow motion recordings of fleas and locusts jumping.

<https://open.ed.ac.uk/eric-lucey-film-collection/>

St Cecilia's Hall Historic Musical Instruments

Images and media from the University of Edinburgh's Collection of Historic Musical Instruments at St Cecilia's Hall. This collection includes photographs of the historic instruments, and fifty open licensed videos that introduce viewers to the rich history of the Hall, along with concert performances celebrating musical cultures from across the world, all performed in Scotland's oldest purpose-built Concert Room. **<https://collections.ed.ac.uk/mimed>**

3D Models of Archive Artefacts

Open-licensed 3D models from the Centre for Research Collections' Digital Imaging Unit, including fossilised bead raindrops collected by Sir Charles Lyell, Felix Mendelssohn's life mask, and Gandharan sculpture fragments.

The background is a solid purple color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons. The icons include microscopes, laptops displaying bar charts, and magnifying glasses focusing on a small figure of a person. The number '10' is positioned in the top left corner.

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The Bigger Picture: Staff Testimonies

Dr Jill Mackay, Lecturer in Veterinary Science Education at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. Author of the Open Textbook R @ R(D)SVS

“I’m a big supporter of Open Science and work on Open Science frameworks as much as possible. I try to make my analyses open, share my data so others can check my work, and to preprint papers before publication. As scientists we present this finished product which sometimes can be taken as the absolute truth, when actually the whole process needs to be exposed to scrutiny. OER are an extension of that whole ethos. It’s about opening up so that others can see and review my work, and with OER someone can take it, fix it, and make it better. Because that’s actually fundamentally what I want. I want everything I do to be better.”

From Open Science to OER and Open Textbooks, <https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/dr-jill-mackay-from-open-science-to-oer-and-open-textbooks/>

Danielle Marlow, Edinburgh Research Clinical Facility (ECRF) Development Coordinator

“Make use of the resources and the people that are available. Make use of the OER Service, the website, and even the blogs. There’s been so much that the team have offered. We came on the training, decided that there’s definite value there for us, then put our own spin on it and have taken it forward.”

Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility’s (ECRF) on rainbows and their OER strategy, <https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-clinical-research-facilitys-ecrf-on-rainbows-and-their-oer-strategy/>

Eleanor Capaldi, PhD student who is researching digitised artworks and who is exploring how participatory methods, including making GIFs of art, can impact the experience of interacting with art online.

“While I had been aware that galleries and museums sought to make their artworks accessible, and was used to seeing popular artworks crop up across sites like Wikimedia, Charlie’s workshop guidance took my initial recognition of different kinds of copyright to a better level of understanding, as well as introducing some GIF making techniques and tools. While museums and galleries like the Rijksmuseum, the Met, and now the Louvre, open up their collections online, it can be easy to miss that not all access rights to all images are the same (Creative Commons Zero CCO is your safest bet!).

Without open-licensed images, this part of my research wouldn’t have been possible. The workshops, the results, and the next stage – sharing the GIFs online to see their trajectories – are continuing in this spirit, opening up new questions and ideas as they go.”

Interacting with artwork creating OER gifs, <https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/interacting-with-artwork-creating-oer-gifs/>

Dr Jen Ross, Senior Lecturer in Digital Education; co-director of the Centre for Research in Digital Education, and Deputy Director (KE) of Research and Knowledge Exchange in the School of Education. She co-leads the Digital Futures course, part of the MSc in Digital Education.

“What was central to the OER assignment in Digital Futures for Learning was that students create a resource that lets others engage meaningfully with the key elements of their topic, engaging and involving their peers in considering, in a scholarly way, issues relevant to the course content. In other words, the benefit of the OER is not only intended to be for the student who creates it – it is equally for the students who will participate in it.”

Student-created, peer-assessed Open Educational Resources, <https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/student-created-peer-assessed-open-educational-resources/>



The Bigger Picture

Outreach

At the University of Edinburgh, we strongly believe that sharing our open scholarship and open practice is fully in keeping with our civic mission to share knowledge and make the world a better place. In addition to supporting staff and students across the institution to engage with open education, the OER Service also undertakes a wide range of outreach activities to share our experience of providing strategic support for OER.

This includes contributing to annual conferences and events including Open Education Week, the OER Conference, the International Open Science Conference, and the Association for Learning Technology Conference. In 2016 the University hosted the OER16 Open Culture Conference, which was co-chaired by Dr Melissa Highton and Lorna M. Campbell.

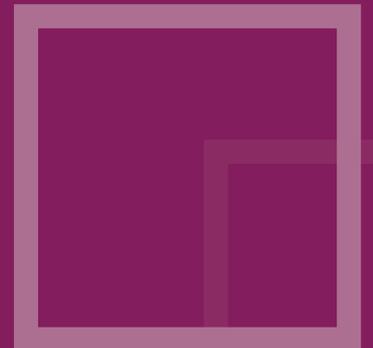
The OER Service also provides input, advice, and guidance to institutions within the UK and beyond who are looking to develop their own support for OER, including University College London, the University of the Highlands and Islands, University of Leeds, NUI Galway, ETH Zürich, Københavns Universitet and UC Louvain.



The Bigger Picture



Awards



2022

MERLOT Instructional and Design Technology Classics Award for 23 Things for Digital Knowledge.

2021

Open Education Global Awards for Excellence: Open Leadership Award for Dr Melissa Highton.

Open Education Global Awards for Excellence: Open Policy Award for University of Edinburgh Open Policies for Learning and Teaching.

Open Education Global Awards for Excellence: Open Curation Award for the Open.Ed Collection of GeoScience Outreach OERs on TES.

2018

Wikimedia UK 2018 Partnership of the Year Award for the University of Edinburgh.

2017

LILAC Credo Digital Literacy Award for 23 Things for Digital Knowledge.

2016

ALT Learning Technologist of the Year 3rd place Team Award for the University of Edinburgh Open Education Team.

Wikimedia UK Partnership of the Year Award for the OER16 Open Culture Conference.



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Looking forward: A Sustainable Future for OER

OER and open education will continue to play an important role in achieving the University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030 outcomes, including widening participation, improving digital outreach, and enabling global participation in education. Our strategic commitment to OER and open knowledge enables us to make an active and ongoing contribution to meeting the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in line with UNESCO's 2019 Recommendation on OER, which highlights the important role that OER can play in fulfilling the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Recommendation recognises that:

“in building inclusive Knowledge Societies, Open Educational Resources (OER) can support quality education that is equitable, inclusive, open, and participatory as well as enhancing academic freedom and professional autonomy of teachers by widening the scope of materials available for teaching and learning.”

Investing in OER and open licensing helps to improve the sustainability and longevity of our teaching, learning and research resources, while encouraging staff and students to reuse and repurpose existing open materials expands the pool of teaching and learning resources and helps to diversify the curriculum.

Integrating open education and OER into the curriculum brings significant benefits including building networks, relationships, and communities, fostering agency and empowerment, developing strong societal values and an appreciation of equity, intersectionality, and social justice. At the same time, co-creating learning opportunities through OER assignments enables students to develop essential digital skills, core competencies and transferable attributes. OER is the key to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, supporting social inclusion and enabling all our learners to become fully engaged digital citizens.



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- P. 6** Open with Care, © ammiennoot, CC-BY-SA 4.0, from the private collection of Melissa Highton.
- P. 7** ONE WORLD. Global climate change protest demonstration strike, by Markus Spiske, free to use image, <https://unsplash.com/photos/r1BS0pzlr1M>
- P. 8** Laing Charter No.12, Alexander III, King of Scotland, University of Edinburgh, CC BY 4.0, <https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/s/2q8wf0>
- P. 9** Charter and Seal, Katherine Paxton, University of Edinburgh, CC BY 3.0, https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/9200271/BibliographicResource_3000058904046
- P. 11** United Nations, public domain image on Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sustainable_Development_Goals.svg
- P. 12** Flight School Forces 1: Parachutes & Air Resistance (Drag), by Joanna Barrie, CC-BY-SA 4.0, <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/flight-school-forces-1-parachutes-and-air-resistance-drag-12438268>
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- P. 16** Ice Burg Floating on Water during Daytime, by Pixabay on Pexels, CCO, <https://www.pexels.com/photo/ice-burg-floating-on-water-during-daytime-220030/>
- P. 18** Annie Adam's Mammoth, by Annie Adams, University of Edinburgh, CCO, <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/the-story-of-the-woolly-mammoth-an-interdisciplinary-project-for-primary-school-students-11940005>
- P.20** Abstract Circles with Night Sky in Background, by Tomas Anunziata on Pexels, CCO, <https://www.pexels.com/photo/abstract-circles-with-night-sky-in-background-695200/>
- P. 22** Take care of the one you love, Lothian Health Services Archive, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/49439570@N08/5204304092/>
- P. 23** Eleanor Dow, Derrick Ng, Margaret Johnston, Matthew Twomey, Calum Hunter, Navina Senthikumar, CC BY 4.0, University of Edinburgh, <https://open.ed.ac.uk/lgbt-healthcare-101/>
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- P. 26** Wikipedia logo v2, by Nohat (concept by Paullusmagnus), CC BY SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikipedia-logo-v2.svg>
- PP. 28 & 29**, Song School St. Mary, 1897, f.5r, by Phoebe Anna Traquair, University of Edinburgh, CC BY 3.0, <https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/s/3c5r71>
- P. 30** Learning online, © University of Edinburgh
- P. 32** 3D model Gandharan sculpture fragments: Seated Buddha, by Clara Molina Sanchez, University of Edinburgh, CC BY, <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/gandharan-sculpture-fragments-seated-buddha-583c20553cc242c690ba31ef0dc47d46>
- P. 32** Still from 6727 - Film of a flower, Eric Lucey film archive, Library and University Collections, CC BY, https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/6727%20-%20Film%20of%20a%20flower/O_8c00bwqk
- P. 37** Album Amicorum unpaginated detail, by Johan Conrad Kraft, University of Edinburgh, CC BY 3.0, <https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/s/i6541e>
- P. 39** #ALD16EdUni - Morning activities, by Interactive Content Team, University of Edinburgh, CC BY 2.0, <https://flic.kr/p/MYiLzT>
- P. 40** University of Edinburgh Wikimedia UK Partnership of the Year 2018, by Ewan McAndrew, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:University_of_Edinburgh,_Wikimedia_UK_Partnership_of_the_Year_2018.jpg
- P. 43** View of Edinburgh from Calton Hill, Scotland, United Kingdom - cityscape photography, by Giuseppe Milo, CC BY 2.0, <https://flickr.com/photos/giuseppemilo/16947297009/>

Neat numbers

As of May 2022, we have:

OER Showcase

290 OER showcase pages on Open.Ed

110+ from the College of Arts Humanities and Social sciences

55+ from the College of Medicine and Veterinary Science

100+ from the College of Science and Engineering

80+ from Information Services Group.

OERs for School Teachers

67 OERs for schools on TES Resources, which have been downloaded over **89,000** times.

54 of these were created by University of Edinburgh students.

'Graph Theory: Puzzles and Games' has been downloaded **1,300** times.

3D Models

28 open licensed 3D models on Sketchfab, including animal skeletons, sculptures, archive fragments, and geology formations.

Open Textbooks

1 open textbook published on Edinburgh Diamond. Fundamentals of Music Theory has been downloaded over **2000** times

Free short online courses

90+ online courses created since 2013.

Over **4 million** online learners.

Open Media

Over **5000** open licensed videos on Media Hopper Create.

Including **771** open MOOC videos in the Open Media Bank.

Blogs

6305 blogs on the University's academic blogging platform, Blogs.Ed, many of them open licensed.

Wikipedia

15 courses running Wikipedia in the Curriculum assignments.

High-grade serous carcinoma, a Wikipedia page created by undergraduate Reproductive Biology student Áine Kavanagh, has been viewed over **145,000** times.

Student Interns

The OER Service has employed **10** student interns on a range of projects.

Open Collections

The Mahabharata scroll, dating to 1795, contains **200,000** verses and is 72 metres long. It has been restored and digitised by the Centre for Research Collection and is available to view, download, and re-use under open licence.

The University's Musical Instrument Museum's online collection contains over **5000** historic artefacts, many accompanied by open licensed images.

Images from the University's collections uploaded to Wikimedia Commons have been viewed over **1 million** times.

To learn more about the University of Edinburgh's vision and support for OER, how the OER Service can help you, and to explore the wealth of open resources created by staff and students, visit the OER Service at **open.ed.ac.uk**

Email: **open.ed@ed.ac.uk**

Twitter: **[@OpenEdEdinburgh](https://twitter.com/OpenEdEdinburgh)**

Blog: **open.ed.ac.uk/blog**

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Design: Graphic Design Service, LTW, ISG, The University of Edinburgh
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