

Open Education for Student Success

Introduction – Siyaphumelela Conference 2024

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Openness: an evolving concept

- Knowledge is a public good
- Access to education
- Increased participation
- Relationship to open education concepts, policies, open licences, open educational resources (OER) and open access .



Focus in today's symposium on

- Open licensing;
- Open education resources;
- Open Pedagogy
- Open textbooks

(And there are other components not discussed here, e.g. Open access publications)



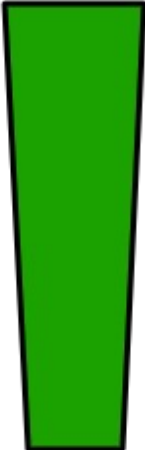
Open licensing

- The opposite of “All Rights Reserved” copyright.
- Open licence as a **flexible form of copyright** that specifies how the work can be used **without requiring** the **permission** of the copyright holder.
- Openly licensing a resource **does not give away** its copyright.
- Most used licenses are by **Creative Commons (CC)**.



Creative Commons licences

MOST OPEN



CC0

≡ Public Domain



BY

Attribution only



BY



SA



BY



ND



BY



NC



BY



NC



SA



BY



NC



ND

LEAST OPEN

Open Educational Resources (OER)

- Teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property licence that permits their **free use** and **repurposing** by others.
- e.g. CC BY or CC BY SA



Open Pedagogy

- Also known as Open Education Practices
- More than one definition
 - The use of OER to support learning
 - The practice of engaging with students as creators of information rather than simply consumers of it
 - Student-created resources that are openly licensed
 - leads nicely on to



Open Textbooks

- ▶ They are essentially
 - ▶ Textbooks with an open licence
 - ▶ Made available online
 - ▶ Freely used by students and educators
 - ▶ Distributed as pdfs, e-books, print or audio
- ▶ Part of the OER movement, and assist students with access and affordability
- ▶ See UCT [DOT4D](#) project and [OpenUCT](#)



How does open education relate to student success?

- Large-scale US study* (Univ. Georgia) found that OER
 - Saved students money
 - Improved grades
 - Improved completion rates
 - Decreased withdrawals and failures, esp. for underserved.

*Colvard et al. 2018 in IJTLHE



How does open education relate to student success?

- Meta-analysis (2019-24)*
 - Improved completion rates and course grades
 - OER as a cost-effective, scalable intervention to improve student success in higher education

*Cho & Permzadian, 2024 IJER



How does open education relate to student success?

- Scope for research in this area in South Africa





OER Africa CPD frameworks



OER Africa CPD Frameworks

- Current grant from Hewlett Foundation
- Mid 2022 to mid/end 2025
- Four questions that guide the work:
 - How to encourage staff to complete ongoing CPD without expensive extrinsic motivations;
 - How to support those responsible for implementing CPD to adopt more flexible approaches to CPD;
 - How to harness openly licensed resources; and
 - How to collaborate with other institutions to strengthen CPD and enable more cost-effective implementation.



Four outcomes

- Outcome #1: Comprehensive CPD Frameworks developed for University Senior Managers, Academics, and Academic Librarians,
- Outcome #2: Online Collection of CPD OER in higher education, with segmented collections and courses
- Outcome #3: Development of policy and institutional environments at African universities that support implementation of CPD on effective OER practices
- Outcome #4: Establishment of a CPD Network to share lessons learned in effective implementation of CPD and facilitate peer support for ongoing implementation of institutional activities



Three CPD frameworks

- Academics
- Senior Management
- Academic Librarians

- Each framework consists of
 - **Domains** – areas of practice that we consider highly valuable
 - **Capability descriptors** – break the domains down into smaller units



CPD framework for Academics



Suggested domains – we realise there is overlap and linkage between them

Capability descriptors

Domain	Capability Descriptor. Academics can....
<p>Facilitating Learning.</p> <p>Mediating and facilitating content and resources guided by sound pedagogical practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a learning environment that supports students' academic and contextual needs. • Provide ongoing feedback to support teaching, learning and assessment. • Facilitate and motivate students to take ownership of their own learning. • Apply a range of pedagogies appropriate to the mode of delivery (distance/blended/online) and how students learn. • Facilitate teaching and learning appropriate to the mode of delivery and class size. • Evaluate and improve their own practice and share with wider community.



OER linked to the framework

- ▶ Our idea is that each of the four domains will be supported by curated, high quality OER on the OER Africa website
- ▶ Anyone wishing to run CPD in these domains can use the OER to do so.
- ▶ We also aim to identify and make available OER for other domains as requested by institutions.



All the CPD frameworks and resources will be on the new OER Africa website

www.oerafrica.org

CURRENT FOCUS

Developing professional competences and skills



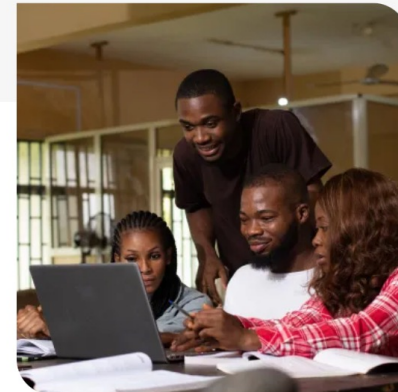
OPEN
EDUCATION
TUTORIALS



ADVANCED
DIPLOMA IN
TECHNICAL AND
VOCATIONAL
TEACHING
(ADTVT)



OER
COURSEWARE



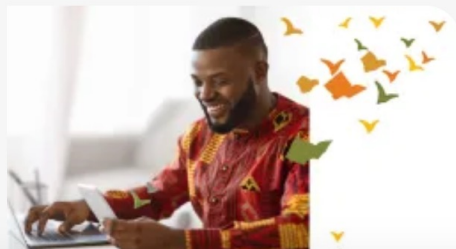
Open Education Tutorials

OER Africa has developed, and continues to test, innovative alternative approaches to continuing professional development (CPD) for academics. One strategy has been to develop Open Education Tutorials for university academic staff that will empower them to embrace open education.

[READ MORE](#)

WHAT'S NEW

Articles and Updates



Screenshot



If you would like to take any of this conversation further

- Check out our website
- Email me at tonyl@saide.org.za





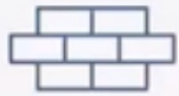
Siyaphumelela
we succeed

Open Education for Student Success in the USA

Ashton Maherry



Institutions inadvertently hinder their students' success



- Policies, practices, and systems often **become daunting barriers to student success**



- **Barriers are particularly harmful** for low income, first generation, and underrepresented students



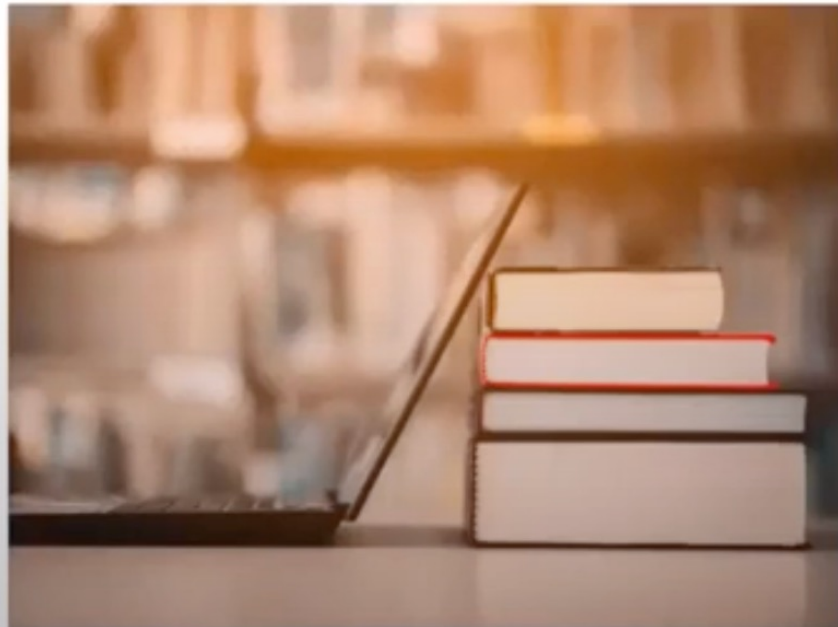
- These barriers are the **foundational drivers of equity gaps**

Are We
the
Problem?



Georgia State Eliminates Textbook and Material Costs for Criminal Justice Students

AUGUST 26, 2022



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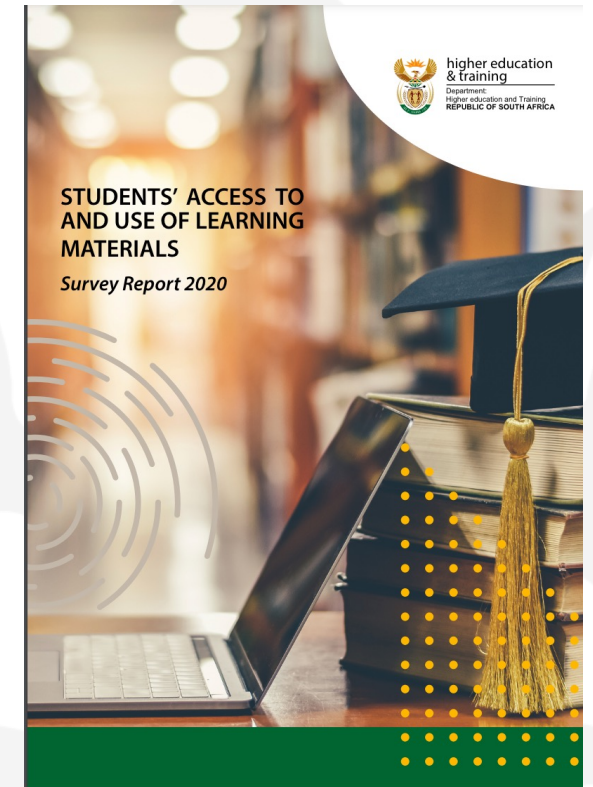
Eliminated costs for 98%
of the 7018 students
taking criminology

\$30,000 Textbook
Transformation Grant
(2019)

In 6 semesters saved
10,300 students
\$800,000 (estimate)

Partnership with library

- 87% of students' first semester modules had prescribed textbooks, however, **27%** of students **did not buy** any prescribed books in the first semester of 2020. Of those who did not buy any books, 68% accessed prescribed textbooks digitally. (29% through sharing or **downloading illegal copies**, and 23% downloaded textbooks through **open access** channels).
- Even though the majority still bought textbooks, they **did not buy all** of their prescribed textbooks. **Half (49%)** of those who bought textbooks only spent **up to R1,500** on these books during the first semester of 2020.
- NSFAS students buy more prescribed textbooks than students not funded by NSFAS, however, more **NSFAS** students **rely on second-hand books**.
- During remote learning, students were exposed to a **wider range of learning materials** and accessed materials through more platforms.



A Quick Guide to Open Educational Resources (OERs)

What are OERs?



FREELY AVAILABLE

Most are legal to copy, adapt, and redistribute semester after semester.



OPEN

"Open" refers to "openly licensed," meaning they are in the public domain or the copyright holder has abridged rights to eliminate barriers to access/use/derivative works.



CC LICENSED

Often contains a Creative Commons license. Check each resource for use rights. creativecommons.org/licenses

Why are OERs and other types of affordable content important?



Course materials are freely available on the **FIRST DAY OF CLASS**



INCREASES in Retention, Completion, and Grade Point Averages



COST SAVINGS
As of June 2024, over \$173 million dollars in textbook savings for students across Georgia affordablelearninggeorgia.org



Increases opportunities for creativity, collaboration and **INNOVATIVE TEACHING**

Affordable content beyond OERs



LIBRARY SUBSCRIBED RESOURCES



OPEN ACCESS CONTENT

Such as ScholarWorks@GSU scholarworks.gsu.edu

OER Projects



REPLACE
a high-cost textbook with a free textbook



CREATE
new course materials



PUBLISH
an open textbook



REVISE
existing OER to meet current needs



DEVELOP
course templates based on OER to facilitate use



USE
library resources in place of textbooks

We're Here to Help!



https://research.library.gsu.edu/ld.php?content_id=76794529

