**Open Educational Resources (OER) for Sociology**

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**INTRODUCTION**

UNESCO defines “Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others”.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) is an open license is one that allows the public to access, use, repurpose, adapt, and redistribute educational resources while also respecting the copyright owner's intellectual property rights.

OER are freely available multimedia, digital text, textbooks, tutorials, workbooks, teaching, educational, and research materials that are either available to users through the public domain. They are designed to be cost-free and reused, repurposed, adapted, and redistributed educational materials.

Online resourses inlcudes, course materials,  textbooks, modules, videos, tests, assessment tools,andsoftware.They offer people all around the world the chance to exchange, consume, and reuse knowldge as well as access to high-quality education at free of cost

### **WHY DOES OPEN EDUCATION MATTER?**

The open education movement's founding principles include ensuring educational equality and accessibility, and as time goes on, solving those challenges will become even more important. Open education takes aim at many issues that complicate education.

#### **WHAT MATTERS IN OPEN EDUCATION?**

In accordance with the original objectives of the open education movement, promoting educational equity and accessibility will become increasingly crucial as time goes on. The goal of open education is to eliminate numerous barriers that make education challenging.

#### **i). Outdated Teaching Resources**

Textbooks and other traditional instructional resources are only as current as when they were published. Unfortunately, the most recent information quickly becomes antiquated and obsolete, particularly in scientific and technological disciplines. Working with outmoded materials puts students and teachers at a severe disadvantage nowadays. On the other hand, open educational resources are constantly updated, modified, and enhanced, so they are never out of date.

**ii). Availability and Equity**

Problems with access and equity in education frequently result from a combination of factors including cost, location, and structural inequities in society. With open education, the playing field for students as they prepare for their life is leveled by the availability of the high-quality materials at low (or free) cost and with few access obstacles.

#### **iii). Cost**

Given the high cost of many teaching and learning resources, many students are forced to choose between going without those resources and incurring significant debt to buy them. The expense of education is a significant social issue, ranging from online initiatives like textbook to the student loan debt crisis. The objective of open education, which is to create high-quality, free online resources, is a direct response to the cost issue.

**OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SOCIOLOGY**

OERs are frequently seen as a component of a larger drive in scholarly publication to promote the use of open content standards. The terms "open content" and "open educational resources" refer to any copyrightable work, typically excluding software (which is referred to by other terms like "open source"), that is either in the public domain or licensed in a way that grants users free and perpetual permission to engage in the following 5R activities:

1. Retain – The Right to create, possess, and manage copies of the content (e.g., download, duplicate, store, and manage)
2. Reuse – he ability to apply the content in other contexts (e.g., in a study group, in a class, in a video, on a website,)
3. Revise – The right to modify the text itself (for example, by translating it into another language)
4. Remix – The right to combine the original or altered content with other materials to create something new. (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
5. Redistribute – The right to distribute copies of the material's original content, edits, or remixes to others

**Open educational Resources are:**

* Open Textbooks
* [Open Access Journals](https://libraryguides.lib.iup.edu/oer/examples#s-lg-box-14602170)
* Open Courseware
* Open Videos, Images and Audio

### **OPEN TEXTBOOKS**

An open textbook is a book that has been given an open license and is freely accessible online for use by students, teachers, and the general public. "Open textbooks are often written by professors and released online with the support of universities/colleges or commercial companies. Free online access to textbooks is made possible by this new business model.

**List of Websites providing open text books:**

1. **BCcampus Open Textbook Project: Sociology**

Books based on the subjects with the largest enrollment in British Columbia. The BC Ministry of Advanced Education provides funding for the B.C. Open Textbook Project.

1. **Free Sociology Textbooks (https://freesociologybooks.com/)**

Textbooks on Introduction to Sociology and Sociology of the Family.

1. **The National Academies Press (NAP)**

This source offers textbooks on many social science and behavioral subjects.The National Academies Press website offers free PDF downloads for each and every book that is listed there.

1. [**OER Commons**](https://www.oercommons.org/search?batch_size=20&sort_by=search&view_mode=summary&f.search=sociology&f.cou_bucket=no-strings-attached)

A well curated selection of sociology resources and textbooks is offered through OER Commons.

1. **Lumen Learning (https://lumenlearning.com/)**

A single textbook that aprovides a range of interconnected sociological subjects, such as family, aging, and sexuality; stratification, inequality, and social class in the U.S.; deviance, social control, and crime.

1. [**OpenStax**](http://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introduction-to-sociology-2e)

Introduction to Sociology adheres to the scope and sequence of a typical, one-semester introductory sociology course.

1. [**Project Gutenberg - Sociology Bookshelf**](https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Sociology_%28Bookshelf%29)

Public domain sociology books that are Free to access online are listed on Project Gutenberg.

1. [**Open Textbook Library**](http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/SearchResults.aspx?subjectId=17)

This collection provides a variety of Sociological textbooks. "Understanding and Changing the Social World" and "Social Problems: Continuity and Change" are included in this collection.

1. [**MERLOT**](https://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.htm?hasAwards=false&audience=3,4,5&hasComments=false&hasCourses=false&filterTypesOpen=false&materialType=13&hasEtextReviews=false&isLeadershipLibrary=false&hasCollections=false&filterOtherOpen=false&isContentBuilder=false&filterSubjectsOpen=true&hasAccessibilityForm=false&hasPeerReviews=false&hasAssignments=false&filterPartnerAffiliationsOpen=true&hasRatings=false&hasSercActivitySheets=false&days=7&filterMobileOpen=false&category=2825&hasEditorReviews=false&page=1) **(https://merlot.org/merlot/)**

An international education community has contributed to and used MERLOT, a curated set of free and open online teaching, learning, and faculty development resources.

1. [**Sociological Landscapes - Theories, Realities and Trends**](https://www.intechopen.com/books/sociological-landscape-theories-realities-and-trends)

Sociology is presented in this academic work as a place that may be virtually explored and experienced.

1. [**Teaching Commons: Social & Behavioral Sciences**](https://teachingcommons.us/social_sciences/)

Textbooks, educational websites, course materials, syllabi, lectures, and more

1. [**LibreTexts: Social Sciences**](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/)

Next-generation textbook for higher education are available

1. [**OpenStax Textbooks: Social Sciences**](https://openstax.org/subjects/social-sciences)

Introduction course textbooks and supporting materials are available

1. [**Open Textbook Library: Sociology**](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/subjects/sociology)

Textbooks used in higher education

### **OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS**

Open access journals provide "free, immediate, online availability of research articles combined with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment”. Open access is the necessary modern update for research communication that fully makes use of the Internet for what it was designed to do-accelerate research

## [**DPI Humanities**](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities)

Journal for liberal arts students with a humanities focus.

1. **MDPI**

It is an open access journal publisher based in Basel, Switzerland. With over 67,000 editors working across 297 various peer-reviewed journals, it has a vast global network.

1. [**Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**](https://doaj.org/)

Directory of reputable peer-reviewed periodicals

1. [**University of California Press E-Books Collection, 1982-2004: Sociology**](https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/search?sort=title&rights=Public&subject-ucp=Sociology&subject-ucp-join=exact&style=eschol&brand=eschol)

Books from academic presses

1. [**OAPEN**](https://www.oapen.org/home)

Quality controlled collection of open access books

1. **JSTOR**

One of the top humanities-focused publications in academia, and by popular demand, it has now made many of its scholarly journals open access.

1. **SpringerOpen**

Launched in 2010, SpringerOpen has established itself as one of academia's most prominent open access publications. In order to spread awareness about many societal concerns, the organization encourages experts from all spheres of science, technology, the humanities, and the social sciences to submit research articles.

1. **Social Science Research Network (SSRN):**

## 900,000+ academic publications in more than 50 different disciplines

## **SAGE Open**

Another reputable academic journal publisher is SAGE. For researchers, students, and the general public, it pledges to offer studies that uphold the most rigorous peer-review standards.

1. **Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)**

Directory of academic, peer-reviewed books

### **OPENCOURSEWARE**

Open Courseware (OCW) is a free and open digital publication of materials for higher education levels. These resources are structured as courses and frequently contain planning materials and evaluation tools in addition to thematic content.

1. **Academic Earth**

Open courses, journals and trade periodicals, grants and scholarships, internships, and student and professional memberships are among the services offered by Academic Earth.

1. **Coursera**

The top lecturers from the best colleges and educational institutions throughout the world teach every course on Coursera. Courses include auto-graded and peer-reviewed assignments, recorded video lectures, and online discussion forums.

1. **Crash Course Series: Sociology**

Nicole Sweeney will lead you through questions both major and small topics regarding how we both shape and are shaped by cultures in this YouTube series.

1. **Open Learn - Sociology**

Free sociology lectures, games, movies, and other resources. Do prisons work?, Social Problems: Who Creates Them?, The Role of Diagnosis in Counseling and Psychotherapy, and The Social in Social Science are among the free courses available.

1. **Open Yale - Sociology**

The Sociology Department at Yale University offers specializations in the areas of Cultural Sociology and Social Theory, Comparative and Historical Sociology, and Social Stratification and Life Course Research. The faculty also publish and teach in the fields of Chinese society, political sociology, sociology of religion, economic sociology, and urban sociology and ethnography.

1. **Lumen Learning**

Courseware with digital homework systems, individualized learning aids, and more

1. **TED ED: Lessons Worth Sharing - Sociology**

Make lessons based on any TED-Ed original, TED Talk, or YouTube video and share them.

1. **BNC OER+**

Holistic learning materials with simple customisation

1. **MIT OpenCourseWare: Sociology**

Course content from MIT

1. **Open Course Library**

Allow to download High-quality, cost-free courses from Google Docs.

1. **Odigia**

Courseware with tools that drives engagement and collaboration

1. **Saylor Academy: Sociology**

College-level and professional-level courses. Students also pay for access codes that give them access to course resources like assignments in addition to textbooks. There are now accessible alternatives to traditional courseware that use OERs.

**OPEN IMAGES, VIDEOS, AND AUDIO**

Video that is streamed in real time is data that has been compressed and delivered over the Internet. A user of the Internet does not have to wait for a file to download in order to play streaming media or video. Instead, a constant stream of data is used to send the material, which is then played as it comes in. The user needs a player, a specialized program that decompresses and delivers audio and video data to speakers and the display. A player may be downloaded from the software developer's website or included as an essential component of a browser.

1. **Google Images**

Select Tools from the search's Tools menu to look for photos with reuse permission.

1. **Creative Commons Search**

Images from museums and other websites with creative commons licenses (Flickr), Wikimedia Commons,

1. **Videolectures.NET: Social Sciences**

Collection of instructional video lectures

1. **Listen Notes**

The podcasts on the Internet can be found by searching; students can use them for free, but typically not under CC licenses.

1. **YouTube**

By selecting Filter and then Creative Commons (under Features), one can search for videos under Creative Commons licenses.

1. **TED Talks: Sociology**

TED Talks by professionals on a range of subjects

**CONCLUSION**

OERs are frequently seen as a component of a larger drive in scholarly publication to promote the use of open content standards. OER can be improved upon, shared, and reused without cost or restriction. When teachers use open educational resources (OER) thoughtfully and effectively, it can drastically change the learning environment students. It supports simple access to education while balancing cost-saving measures with higher educational quality.

The only thing to keep in mind, though, is that a one-size-fits-all strategy might not be the best one in this situation. For the best learning results, teachers must be prepared to go above and above and modify the materials to meet the requirements of their students.

OERs focused on delivering ideas and resources for teaching sociology like The Sociological Cinema (thesociologicalcinema.com), SociologySource, (sociologysource.org), and Teaching TSP (thesocietypages.org/teaching)

There is a much larger collection of sociology blogs that do not focus primarily on teaching, but occasionally discuss teaching and/or provide resources for instruction. This is probably best illustrated by the award winning website Sociological Images (thesocietypages.org/socimages). Many teachers across the globe use Sociological Images in their classes, often as a springboard into class discussions

Publishers of textbooks have also joined the OER trend by creating blogs that use current events and popular culture to highlight sociological topics. For instance, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. runs the Everyday Sociology Blog (everydaysociologyblog.com).

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