The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from EDUCATORS.

Dataset available for download at http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263

**Sample**

- 47.7% Female
- 52% Male

**Country of residence**

- USA (37%)
- UK (13%)
- Canada (7%)
- South Africa (5%)
- Ireland (3%)
- China (2%)
- Australia (2%)
- India (2%)
- 115 other countries (28%)

**English as first language?**

- 65% Yes
- 35% No

**Disability?**

- 10.2% Yes
- 89.8% No

**Age**

- >15 years: 0.5%
- 15-18: 1%
- 19-24: 8.1%
- 25-34: 23.1%
- 35-44: 23.9%
- 45-54: 22.9%
- 55-64: 15.9%
- 65-74: 4.4%
- <75 years: 0.3%
Types of OER

Which of the following types of OER have you used for teaching? N=1473

- Videos: 64.6%
- Podcasts: 27.9%
- Images: 59.1%
- Infographics: 26.2%
- Games: 24.8%
- Lectures: 33.4%
- Tutorials: 35%
- Quizzes: 36.2%
- Full courses: 39.3%
- Course modules: 18.3%
- Open textbooks: 53%

A smaller number of respondents (N=845) were asked about their use of lesson plans (36.2%), data sets (16.1%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (36%).

Subjects

In which subject(s) do you normally use OER? N=983

- Science: 44.2%
- Mathematics: 23.7%
- History & Geography: 17%
- Applied Science, Technology & Engineering: 17.5%
- Literature: 16.2%
- Education Studies: 22%
- Computer & Information Science: 17.8%
- Psychology & Philosophy: 21.2%
- Social Sciences: 20.4%
- Languages & Linguistics: 20.3%
Impact of OER use on teaching

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact on your teaching practice of your using OER? N=977

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither/nor
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

I have broadened my coverage of the curriculum
- 17.6% Strongly agree
- 41.4% Agree
- 27% Neither/nor
- 5% Disagree
- 9% Strongly disagree

I use a broader range of teaching and learning methods
- 17.8% Strongly agree
- 46.5% Agree
- 23.8% Neither/nor
- 3% Disagree
- 8.4% Strongly disagree

I have improved my skills in information and communication technologies
- 14.2% Strongly agree
- 30.2% Agree
- 39.4% Neither/nor
- 7.6% Disagree
- 8.6% Strongly disagree

I make use of a wider range of multimedia
- 17.7% Strongly agree
- 41.3% Agree
- 27.6% Neither/nor
- 5.6% Disagree
- 7.7% Strongly disagree

I make more use of culturally diverse resources
- 10.1% Strongly agree
- 29.2% Agree
- 43.4% Neither/nor
- 9.8% Disagree
- 7.4% Strongly disagree

I have more up-to-date knowledge of my subject area
- 15.8% Strongly agree
- 40.2% Agree
- 28.1% Neither/nor
- 5.3% Disagree
- 10.6% Strongly disagree

I reflect more on the way that I teach
- 16.2% Strongly agree
- 43.2% Agree
- 27.9% Neither/nor
- 4% Disagree
- 8.7% Strongly disagree

I more frequently compare my own teaching with others’
- 12.5% Strongly agree
- 32% Agree
- 39% Neither/nor
- 9.8% Disagree
- 6.6% Strongly disagree

OER allow me to better accommodate diverse learner needs
- 20.4% Strongly agree
- 43.9% Agree
- 31.4% Neither/nor
- 1.9% Disagree
- 2.4% Strongly disagree

I collaborate more with colleagues
- 12.4% Strongly agree
- 24.9% Agree
- 43.3% Neither/nor
- 12% Disagree
- 7.4% Strongly disagree
# Impact of OER use on learning

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of using OER on students? N=868

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither/nor</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' participation in class discussions</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' interest in the subjects taught</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' satisfaction with the learning experience</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER leads to improved student grades</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER builds learners' confidence</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER develops learners' independence and self-reliance</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' engagement with lesson content</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' experimentation with new ways of learning</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases collaboration and/or peer-support amongst learners</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of OER increases learners' enthusiasm for future study</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Purpose of using OER

For which of the following purposes have you used OER in the context of your teaching? N=1611

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To prepare for my teaching</td>
<td>65.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get new ideas and inspiration</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To supplement my existing lessons or coursework</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As assets (e.g. images) within a classroom</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As compulsory self-study materials</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To give to learners as optional self-study materials</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To compare them with my own teaching materials</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To broaden the range of my teaching methods</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To broaden the range of resources available to my learners</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make my teaching more culturally diverse</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance my professional development</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To stay up-to-date in a subject area</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To learn about a new topic</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To engage students more fully in a topic area</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To interest hard-to-engage learners</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educators use OER to broaden their teaching methods and the range of resources available to their students.
Selecting OER

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=987

- 45% Evidence of interest in that resource (e.g. lots of downloads)
- 43% The resource being recently created, uploaded or updated
- 64% The resource being easy to download
- 65% A description of learning objectives or outcomes being provided
- 68% The resource being created by a reputable/trusted institution/person
- 40% The resource having a Creative Commons license
- 43% The resource having an open license allowing adaptation
- 41% The length/complexity of the resource
- 53% Use of interactive or multimedia content (e.g. video)
- 48% Positive user ratings or comments about the resource
- 51% Personal recommendation
- 53% Having previously used this resource successfully
- 76% The resource being relevant to my particular interests/needs
- 14% The resource featuring a catchy title or attractive image(s)
- 24% The resources having previously been used with students
- 52% A detailed description of the resource content being provided

Relevance, reputation and clear learning objectives guide educators’ selection of open content.
## Challenges

Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overcoming technology problems when downloading resources</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowing where to find resources</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding suitable resources in my subject area</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding resources of sufficiently high-quality</td>
<td>56.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding resources that are up-to-date</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding resources relevant to my local context</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting managers to accept OER use</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being skilled to edit resources</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not knowing whether I have permission to use a resource</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having enough time to look for suitable resources</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having connections with OER-using peers</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not knowing how to use resources</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not having enough time/opportunities to experiment</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacking institutional support for my use of OER</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources not aligned with standards</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open content needs to be relevant, high-quality and discoverable for educators to adopt OER