OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Educators

Other

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oro.open.ac.uk
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?**

- **YES (65%)**
- **NO (35%)**

**Disability?**

- **YES 10.2%**
- **NO 89.8%**

**Age**

- >15 years
- 15-18
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- <75 years
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: 53%
- Course modules: 39.3%
- 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
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? $N=987$

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

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

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

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