

ENHANCE YOUR TEACHING WITH OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



How to reuse open educational resources:
5 scenarios for lecturers

SURF

Developing good open educational resources is time-consuming and expensive. There are many advantages to be gained if lecturers collaborate. Using other people's open educational resources, you can enhance your own teaching; it offers substantive and didactic inspiration and it saves you time.

open educational resources which can be freely used in other people's teaching are known as Open Educational Resources (OER). Are you a lecturer, and would you like to try using OER? Or are you actively involved in a professional community that would like to build a collection of OER? Discover how you can use OER to improve your teaching.

These OER are stored in repositories, which are freely accessible via the Internet, for sharing and reuse. The stored OER often contain the following features:

METADATA Information about the open educational resources, about the subject, the level or how often it has been downloaded.

CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY Only for materials which meet the requirements of a quality model.

TOPIC VOCABULARY Search terms established within the subject area.

CREATIVE COMMONS Open licences that describe the conditions under which others are permitted to distribute and edit their open educational resources.

RATINGS Users' reviews.

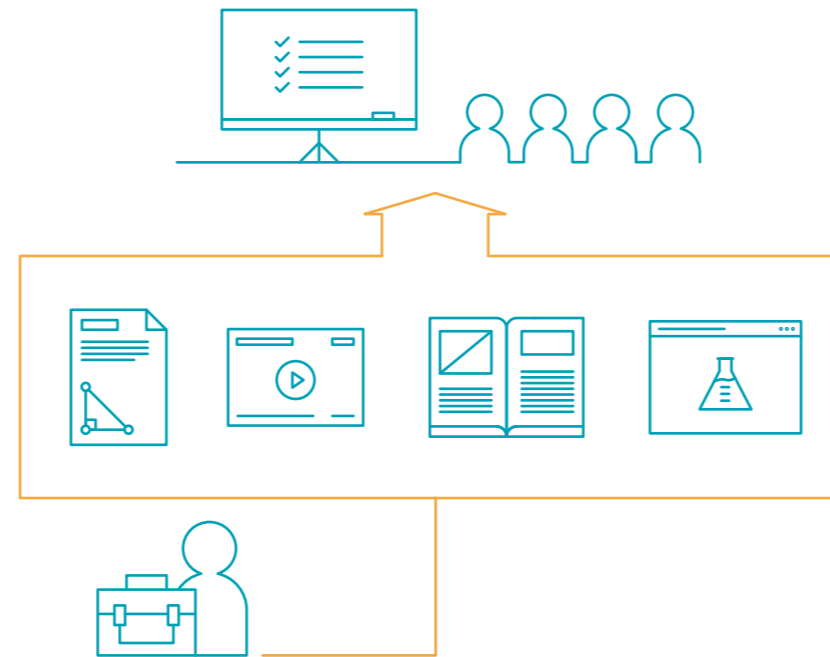


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SCENARIO 1

CLASSIC WAY OF DEVELOPING EDUCATION



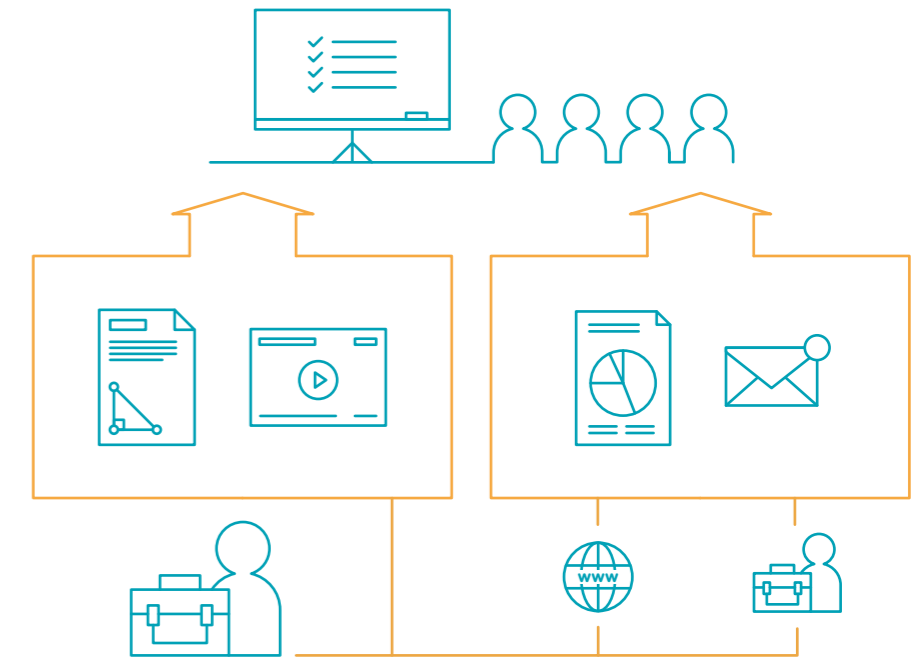
As a lecturer, you create your own educational programme. You combine teaching materials from publishers with your own materials in readers, presentations and videos, etc. You regularly update your material. That works. And how it was for years.

+ ADVANTAGES

You know the quality of your own material

SCENARIO 2

INFORMAL SHARING OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Do you sometimes use other people's learning material? A colleague's slide, a practice test from someone in your professional community? Sharing open educational resources is nothing new. Why should everyone always have to reinvent the wheel?

+ ADVANTAGES

Improved quality of education | Enhanced teaching

MOST LECTURERS PUT TOGETHER THEIR OWN LESSONS USING VARIOUS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. THIS IS THE CLASSIC WAY OF DEVELOPING EDUCATION.

You make your own open educational resources, which correspond perfectly with the learning level of your students and meet your own quality standards.

Did you know that students not only use the open educational resources you provide? When students come across a problem while studying, they search the Internet for open educational resources to help them. Some students even follow complete online modules or take courses at another educational institute, and consequently pass the exam you set for them.

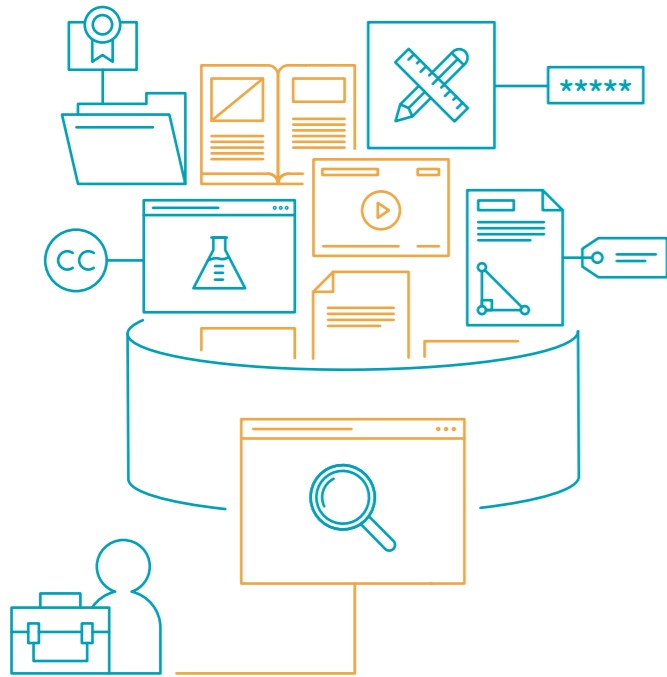
A COLLEAGUE WHO GIVES YOU THEIR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WILL USUALLY SAY THAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO USE IT IN YOUR OWN TEACHING. WE CALL THIS FORM OF SHARING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMAL SHARING.

You haven't officially recorded that you're using each other's material, but it happens all the time, and that's a good thing.

Using other people's open educational resources, you can enhance your own teaching; it offers substantive and didactic inspiration and it saves you time. Do check whether the material meets your own quality standards. Because as a lecturer, you are always responsible for your lessons, even when you're using other people's material.

SCENARIO 3

FORMAL USE OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Do you often spend more time looking for something than you do making it yourself? Do your search terms fail? There are special search engines for open educational resources, for lecturers and students.

NATURALLY YOU WANT GOOD-QUALITY MATERIAL THAT WORKS IN YOUR LESSONS AND IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR STUDENTS. THE RIGHT SEARCH TERMS, USER REVIEWS AND QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR SEARCH.

There are special search engines, such as OERcommons or Merlot, that search specifically in series of lessons and complete collections of open educational resources. These search engines provide you with information that helps you assess the quality and relevance of the materials. Use the Internet too; it's full of suitable open educational resources such as instruction videos on YouTube OR 3D images on Sketchfab.

You can take over open educational resources literally from others, or adapt them to suit your own context. Do make sure you have permission to use the material. The owner of the material gives their consent through a Creative Commons licence. The licence states if and how the material may be used, and whether the author's name should be mentioned.

Tip: Ask at the library if they can help you search for, and find, suitable learning material.

National infrastructure

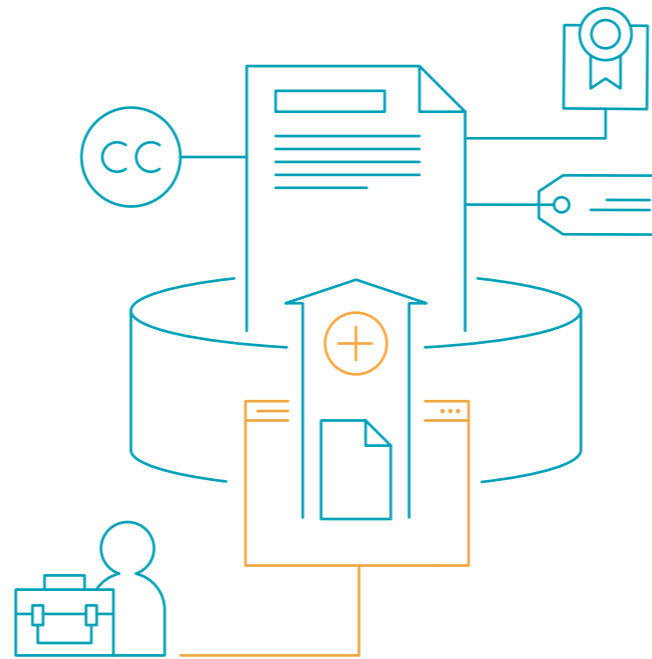
SURF is working on a Dutch national search portal for open open educational resources. This search portal will give a prominent place to domain-specific collections for and by higher education. You'll be able to search using specific subject area terms, and certificates will be shown that are issued to high-quality material by professional communities. SURF is collaborating with Kennisnet on this venture.

+ ADVANTAGES

- Easy to find
- Easy to assess in terms of relevance and quality
- You're allowed to use it

SCENARIO 4

FORMALLY SHARE YOUR OWN OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Do you have your own learning materials that you're proud of? Add them to a repository for open open educational resources, such as the Dutch Wikiwijs or SURFsharekit! You'll be contributing to the education of students and of other lecturers.

LEARNING MATERIAL IS DEVELOPED USING TAXPAYERS' MONEY. GIVING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES BACK TO SOCIETY COULD BE JUST AS SELF-EVIDENT AS TAKING GLASS TO THE RECYCLING BIN.

By sharing learning material across a broad spectrum, not only students within your subject area, but also other lecturers and students can profit from your knowledge and the material you have developed. You expand the freedom of choice of lecturers and students, you may well get compliments or feedback from fellow professionals and you will be contributing to your organisation's reputation.

In order to ensure that others can use your learning material, it has to be made freely available through the Internet, and the material has to be given an open licence. One license that is often used for this purpose is Creative Commons.

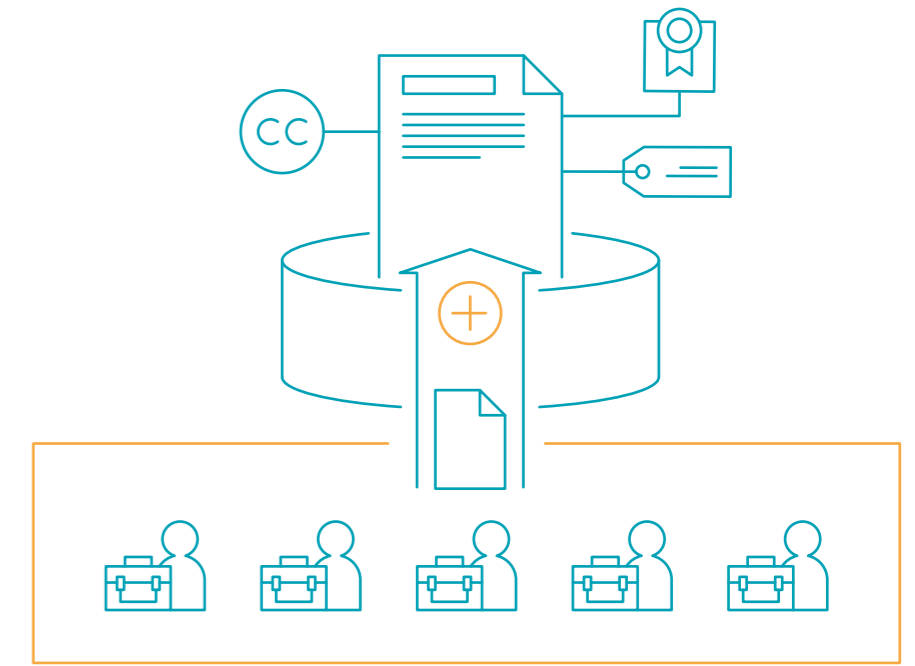
Ask the library to help you licence your material and make it available. Your library may even offer you a repository where you can publish and share your learning material. They can also tell you all you need to know about copyright and add metadata to materials.

+ ADVANTAGES

- Recognition for your work
- Contribution to the education of fellow professionals
- Giving students (and lecturers) more freedom of choice
- Good for your organisation's reputation

SCENARIO 5

COLLABORATION IN THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY



Is it a lot of work to keep your open educational resources up to date? Not if you work on it together. Collaborating with fellow professionals raises the quality of both open educational resources and your own lessons.

YOU PROBABLY KNOW FELLOW PROFESSIONALS, NATIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY. TOGETHER, YOU FORM A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY WITH CONGRESSES, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS.

A professional community can play a part in the building and managing of a collection of open educational resources. Sharing is easier if you know each other and feel a common bond.

Building a collection

Some professional communities build a collection of open open educational resources for their own subject area, such as statistics, nursing or anatomy. They manage their own repository and analyse where there is demand in the subject area. If certain open educational resources are missing, efforts will be made to fill in gaps in the collection through co-creation.

Develop a topic vocabulary, based on a communal language, which is aligned with the metadata attached. This gives the collection structure and aids the searching for, and finding of, learning material. The certification, based on a quality model of the professional community, means that you know you're getting good material.

An engaged community

You need a lively community for an up-to-date collection. Make sure there's a community platform where people can find each other online and where knowledge and experience can be exchanged. Mention open educational resources to fellow professionals at meetings.

+ ADVANTAGES

- Collections of high quality open educational resources
- Learning from each other through co-creation
- Collaborating on up-to-date material