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The Open Education Resource Phenomenon: Free Educational Resources for All

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The Open Education Resource Phenomenon: Free Educational Resources for All

By Gloria Creed-Dikeogu, Ottawa University



OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES (OER) DEFINED

- Unesco IIEP's "wish to develop together a universal education resource available for the whole of humanity"
- "...To retain human and liveable, knowledge societies will have to be societies of shared knowledge" (D'Antoni, S. p. 7)
- Resources available free on Internet empowered by worldwide community
- Developed, Shared, Used, Reused and Altered
- Difference between Open and Open Source



TOWARD AN OER PHILOSOPHY?

Its about:

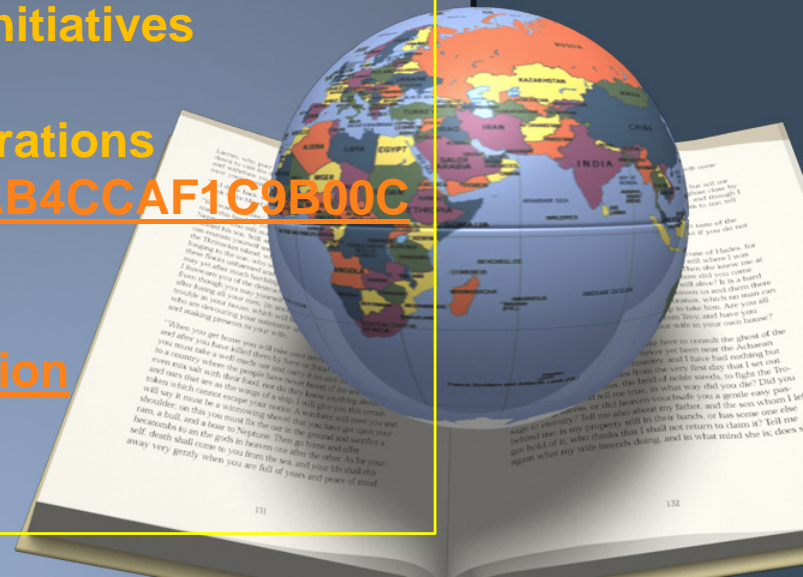
- Potential to change world education
- Redefine how knowledge creation/use
- Aggregation, sharing and collaboration of free materials
- Unesco 's project “ Building cultures of peace”
- Creating lab for new ideas and standards
- Catalyst of cooperation
- Developing a clearinghouse of shared- knowledge
- Public Good



OER HISTORY

- 2005 UNESCO held online forum
- 2006 Free Libre Open Source Software merged with OECD Campaign
- Open Education Conferences held September 2006 and 2007, Logan, Utah
- 2007 Dubrovnik iSummit educators joined Open Movement Worldwide showcasing OER Initiatives
- Berlin Declaration and Cape Town Declarations
<http://www.icde.org/oslo/icde.nsf/id/5A5AB4CCAF1C9B00C125729F0052BF0F?OpenDocument>

[The Cape Town Open Education Declaration](#)



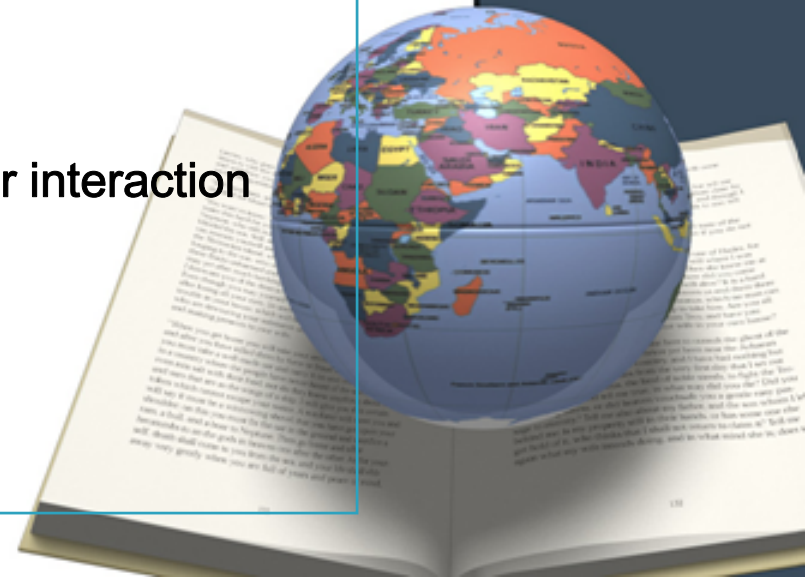
THE OER CAUSE

- Making student textbooks affordable through OER
<http://www.maketextbooksaffordable.org/statement.asp?id2=37614>
- Stakeholders: governments, educators, funders, public
- 100 Best OER Resources in the US
<http://www.masterdegreeonline.com/blog/2009/the-100-best-open-education-resources-on-the-web/>
- OER Africa
<http://www.oerafrica.org/>
- EDNA Australia
<http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/page1.html>



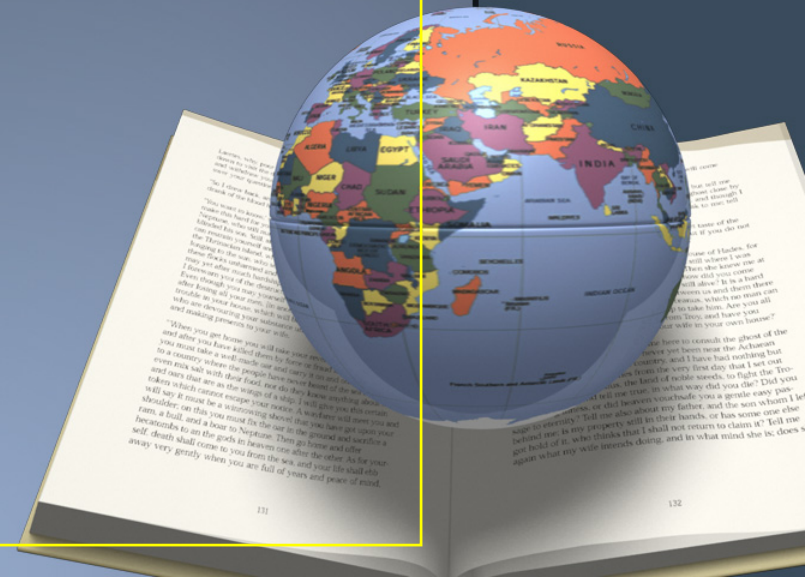
OER PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

- International Council for Open and Distance Education
<http://www.icde.org/>
- Provide children with textbooks tailored to own background/learning style with learning outcomes
- Free, reusable multimedia materials, low cost translatable materials
- Textbooks created to monitor individual interactions/analyze these in future
- Easy updates, available 24 hours
- Promise to change author-learner-mentor interaction online



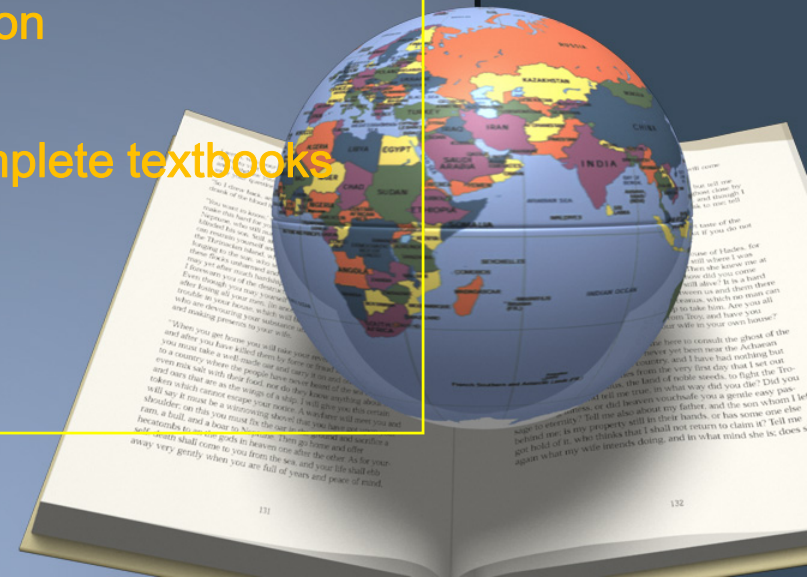
TYPES OF AVAILABLE OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

- OPEN TEXTBOOKS
- OPEN COURSEWARE
- OPEN E-JOURNALS
- US GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
- OPEN PUBLISHING
- ONLINE RESPOSITORIES AND PORTALS
- OPEN MEDIA
- OPEN PHOTO GALLERIES
- OPEN SOURCE LIBRARIES
- OPEN LIBRARIES
- OPEN SOFTWARE
- OPEN GAMES



GLOBAL ACCESS PROBLEMS

- Lack of electricity
- Governments and educators are unaware or unconvinced
- Computer Incompatibility
- Limited Internet access
- Limited Printing access in some areas
- Faculty reluctance to share
- Faculty time limitations
- Language barriers
- Licensing misunderstanding and confusion
- Quality variability
- Most OER's not designed to replace complete textbooks
- Semi-open content



OER LICENSING

- Internet resources available for use/reuse using varied types of licensing

<http://cnx.org/content/m15234/latest/>

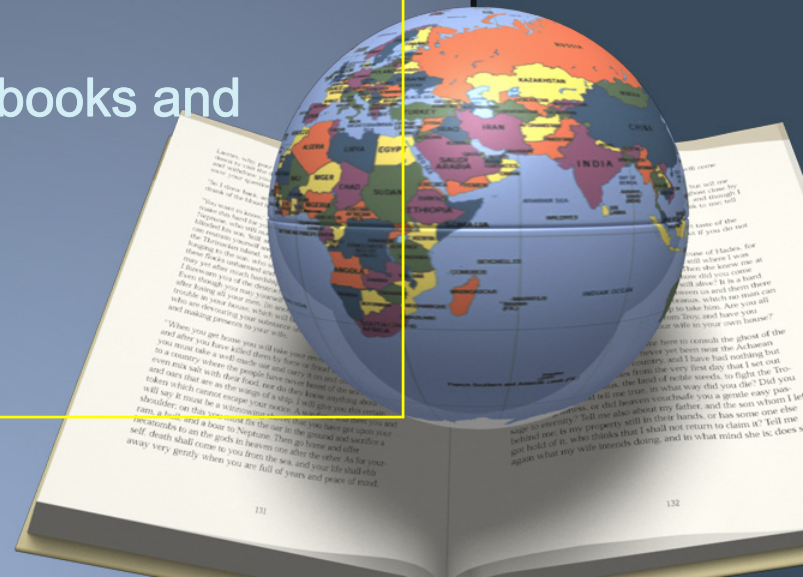
- Creative Commons Licenses and Video

<http://creativecommons.org/about/licenses>

<http://search.creativecommons.org/>

- GNU GPL Licenses for manuals, textbooks and reference materials

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html#WhatDoesGPLStandFor>



OPEN EDUCATION STANDARDS

- OER Logo Explained

<http://opened.creativecommons.org/Definition>

- Specific technological standards defined e.g. using XHTML, Cascading Style Sheets
- Meaningful graphics, courseware displayed in Firefox, Explorer, Safari, Netscape Navigator, limited download time
- Use software best practices; no tables in design

<http://www.cen-itsa.net/Users/main.aspx?noti=568>



OPEN EDUCATION PRACTICES

- OER Practices

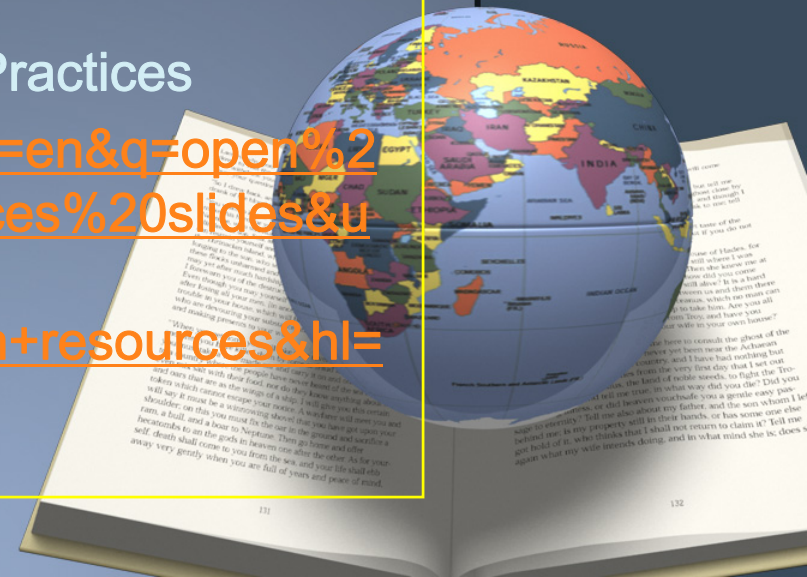
http://www.olcos.org/cms/upload/docs/olcos_roadmap.pdf

- JISC Pilot Program at the Open University

<http://digitisation.jiscinvolve.org/2009/07/02/jdcc09-content-in-education-open-educational-resources/>

- Videos describing Open Education Practices

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?hl=en&q=open%20education%20resources%20practices%20slides&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wv#q=open+education+resources&hl=en&emb=0>



OPEN UNIVERSITIES

- Unesco Virtual University

http://www.unesco.org/iiep/virtualuniversity/forumshome.php?queryforums_id=3

- OER Database of worldwide resources

<http://oedb.org/library/features/80-oer-tools>

- Unesco Virtual Geography

<http://www.unesco.org/iiep/virtualuniversity/region.php>

- African Virtual University

http://www.unesco.org/iiep/virtualuniversity/forumsfiche.php?queryforumspages_id=31#chapter4



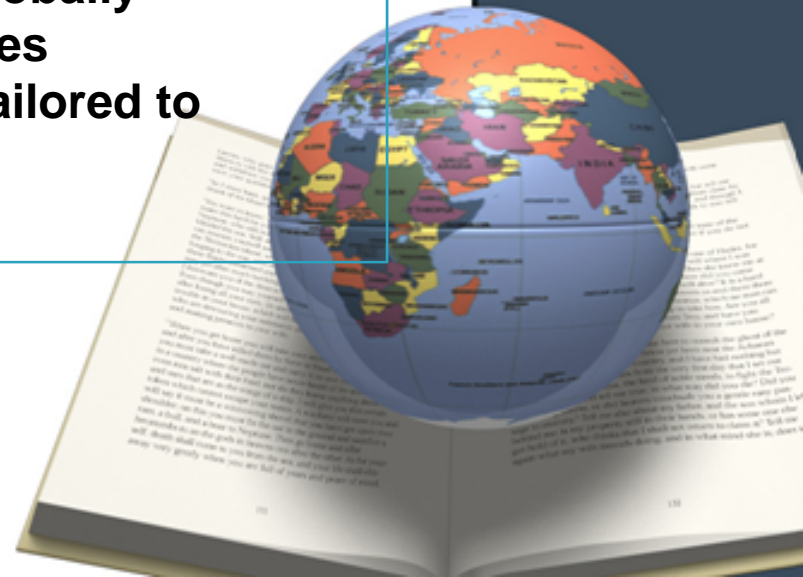
OPEN EDUCATION TEXTBOOKS

What are open textbooks?

<http://cnx.org/content/m15226/latest/>

WHY TEXTBOOKS?

- Textbooks cost more than fees
- Not enough textbooks to share
- Way to share subject expertise on web
- Wiki texts can share subject expertise globally
- Too many textbook errors and stereotypes
- Promise to provide learning resources tailored to individual need



OER TEXTBOOK LINKS

- Merlot Open Textbooks

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.htm?keywords=open+textbooks>

- Textbookmedia

<http://www.textbookmedia.com/Products/BookList.aspx>

- OpenSource Textbooks

<http://linear.ups.edu/opentexts.html>

- Teachers without borders

<http://www.teacherswithoutborders.org/pages/open-educational-resources-2>

- Flatworld Open Textbooks

<http://opendotdotdot.blogspot.com/2009/01/flatworld-new-kind-of-textbook.html>



WHY USE OPEN COURSEWARE?

- Open Culture Blog answers question
http://www.openculture.com/2009/04/how_do_you_use_open_courses.html
- Take web college courses at your own pace
- Can take courses anytime, anywhere, at no cost

WHY?

- Listen to courses for personal and religious enrichment
- Self-development in knowledge areas
- Dislike of traditional education?
- Fun
- Growth through learning



OER COURSEWARE

- Open Courseware finder

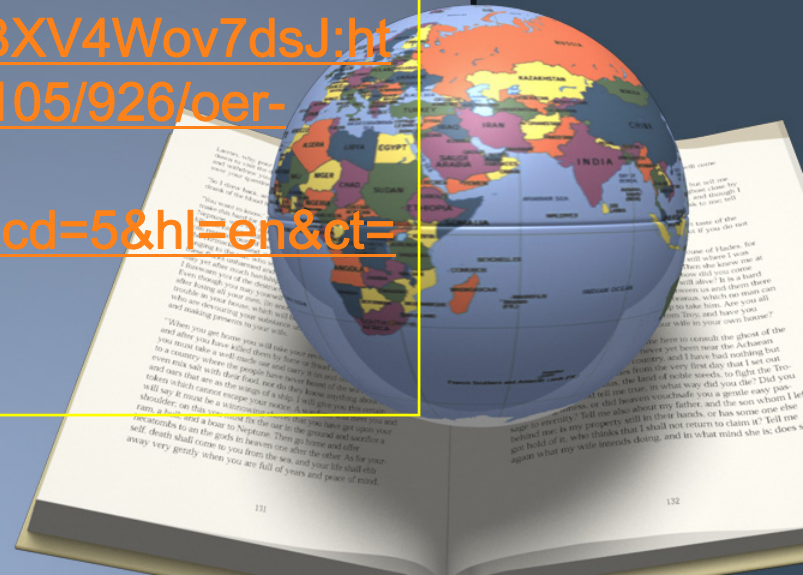
<http://ocwfinder.com/>

- Ultimate Guide to using Free Courseware

http://www.collegedegree.com/library/college-life/the_ultimate_guide_to_using_open_courseware

- OER Standards for Courseware

<http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:bBXV4Wov7dsJ:https://eduforge.org/docman/view.php/105/926/oer-technical-specs-v1p0.doc+OER+INACCESSIBILITY&cd=5&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>



OER COURSEWARE LINKS

- HippoCampus

<http://www.hippocampus.org/Algebra;jsessionid=99D9D49F9843B8B119DC4803F85BA93E>

- NSU Open Lab

<http://open.ncsu.edu/>

- 80 Multifaceted OER tools

<http://oedb.org/library/features/80-oer-tools>

- DGCommunities

<http://openeducation.developmentgateway.org/Open-Educational-Resources.9506.0.html>

- Wikiversity

http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Composing_free_and_open_online_educational_resources

- OWL OER Portal

<http://owli.org/portal/>

- PennState

<http://open.ems.psu.edu/>



OPEN ONLINE LIBRARIES

- Gutenberg Project

http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

- Wikibooks

<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/WB:SUBJECT>

- FullBooks

<http://www.fullbooks.com/>

- Google Books

<http://books.google.com/>

- Open Book Project

<http://openbookproject.net/>

- Page by Page

<http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/authorlist.html>



OPEN E-JOURNALS

GENERAL

- Directory of Open Access Journals

<http://www.doaj.org>

- Open J Gate

<http://www.openj-gate.com/Search/QuickSearch.aspx>

- E-journals.org

<http://www.e-journals.org/>

SUBJECT E-JOURNALS

- EDUCATION <http://aera-cr.asu.edu/ejournals/>

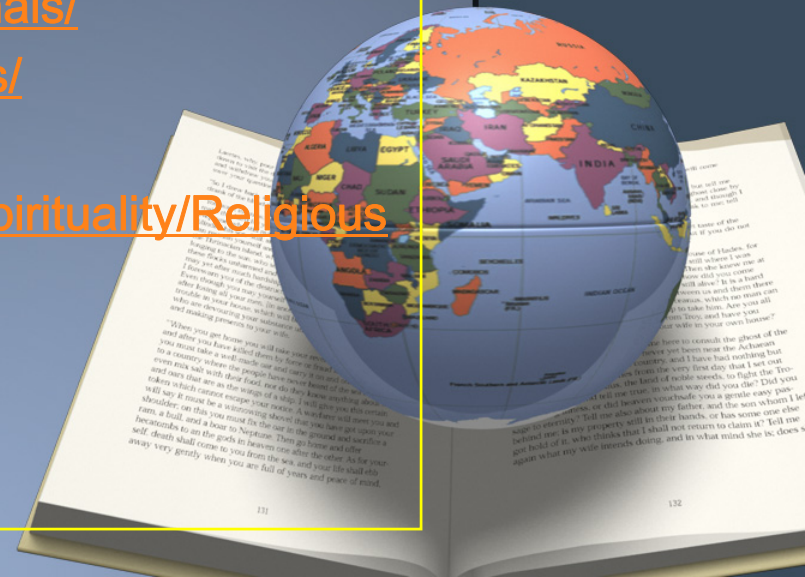
- MEDICINE <http://nml.gov/rsdd/ejournals/>

- RELIGION

[http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Religious
_Studies/Journals/](http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Religion_and_Spirituality/Religious_Studies/Journals/)

- LIBRARY SCIENCE

<http://librarysupportstaff.com/libjourn.html>



E-JOURNAL MYTHS

- Consider E-Journal of Instructional Science and Technology

<http://www.usq.edu.au/e-jist/>

- No quality control of articles
- No much peer-review

International reviewers

<http://www.usq.edu.au/e-jist/reviewpanel.htm>

- No substantial back-files (Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society circa 1665 vol.1)

<http://rstl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/by/year>

- Librarians should encourage linking to open e-journals and free access periodicals



GOVERNMENT AND MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS

- SPARC

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/frpaa/index.shtml>

- PUBMED Central

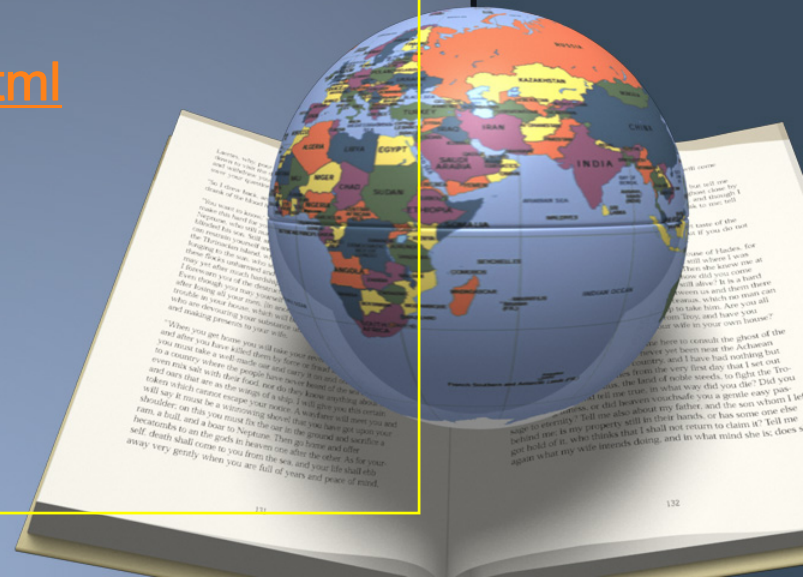
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/fprender.fcgi>

- GPO Access

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/databases.html>

- Catalog of Government Publications

<http://catalog.gpo.gov/F>



OPEN PUBLISHING

- Self Publishing

<http://www.wordclay.com/Default.aspx>

<http://www.wordclay.com/BookStore/BookStoreHome.aspx>

IUniverse Self Publishing Packages

<http://www.iuniverse.com/>

- Online Writers Groups

WritersPub

<http://www.writerspub.com/search/genre>

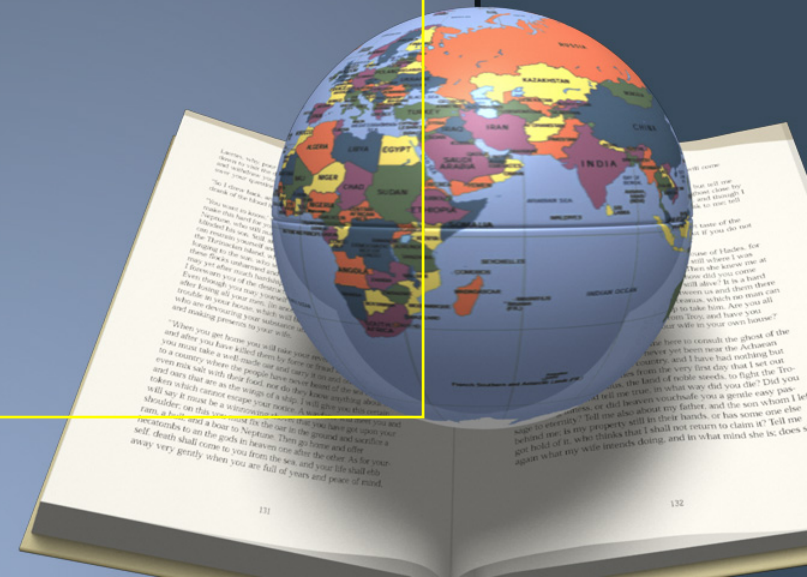
Poetry Critique

<http://zeugma.riverwriter.ca/>

Critters and The Imaginaries

<http://www.critters.org/>

<http://www.imaginaries.org/index.jsp>



REPOSITORIES AND DIGITAL LIBRARIES

- OER Repository and Digital Library

OER Repository Index

<http://cwr.unitar.edu.my/file.php/1/Index.htm>

OER Digital Library/OER Commons

<http://www.oercommons.org/oer>

- Open Source Repositories

Microsoft Zentity

<http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/48e60ac1-a95a-4163-a23d-28a914007743/>

DuraSpace

<http://duraspace.org/>

- Open Source Digital Libraries

Greenstone

<http://www.greenstone.org/>

Other Open Digital Library Resources

<http://oerc.merlot.org/more/index.html>



OPEN DIGITAL RESOURCES

- Multimedia Collections

<http://www.archive.org/details/computersandtechvideos>

- Open Source LAN

<http://www.videolan.org/>

- Open Source Video Streaming Software

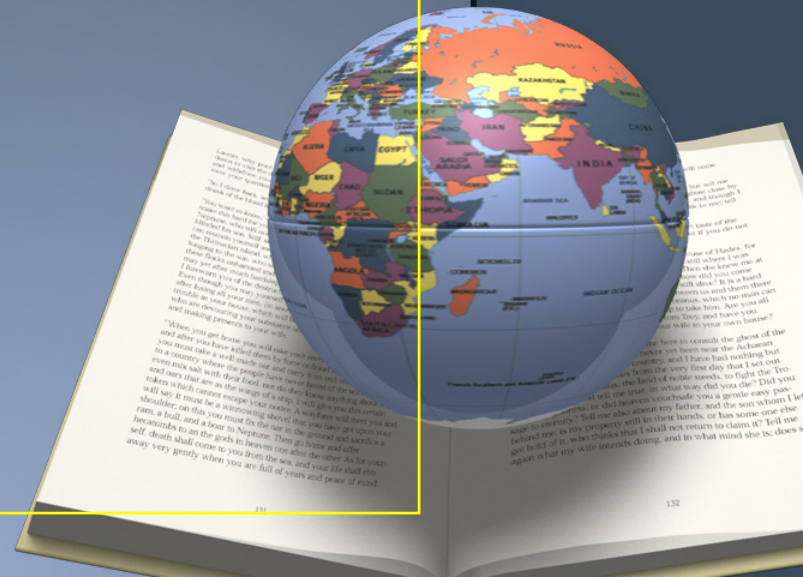
<http://www.scvi.net/stream/soft.htm>

- Freshmeat

<http://freshmeat.net/tags>

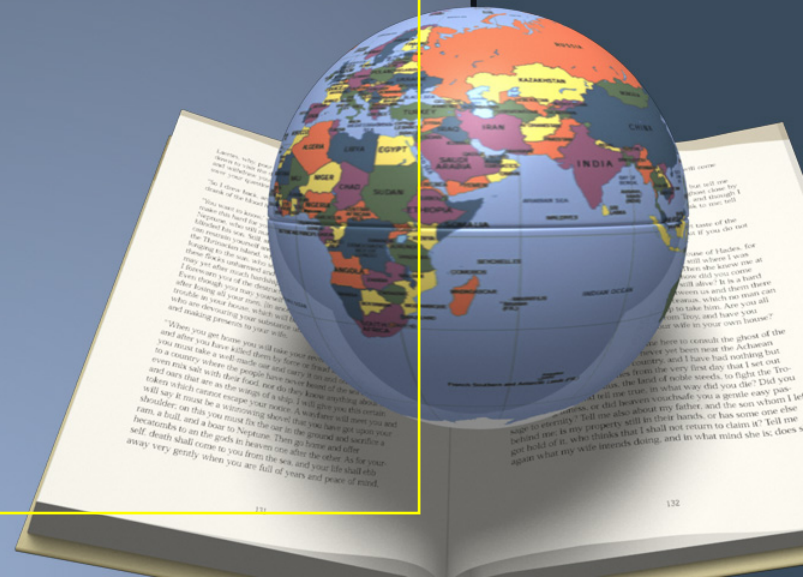
- Ustream

<http://www.ustream.tv/discovery/live/all>



OPEN STREAMING VIDEO

- MIT World Streaming Video
<http://mitworld.mit.edu/>
- Multimedia Collections
<http://www.archive.org/details/computersandtechvideos>
- Open Source Video Streaming Software
<http://www.scvi.net/stream/soft.htm>
- Teachertube
<http://teachertube.com>
- Annenberg Media
<http://www.learner.org/resources/browse.html>
- PBS Video
<http://video.pbs.org/>



OPEN PHOTO GALLERIES/TOOLS

Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mag3737/1914076277/>

Plogger

<http://www.plogger.org/>

NIH Photo Galleries

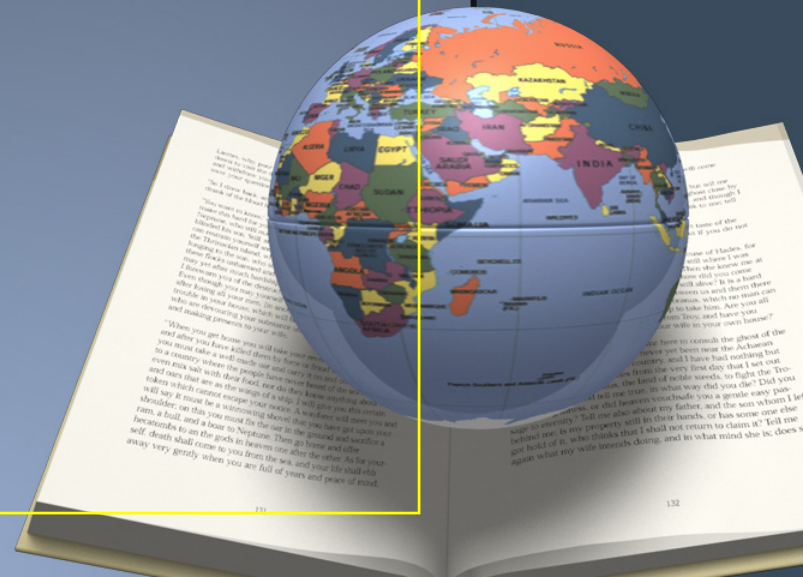
<http://www.nih.gov/about/nihphotos.htm>

Photo Organizer

<http://www.myphotoindex.com/>

OpenPhoto

http://openphoto.net/gallery/index.html?org_id=29



FREWARE: OPEN SOFTWARE

- College Crunch
<http://www.collegecrunch.org/technology/free-college-software-guide/>
- Educational Freeware
<http://www.educational-freeware.com/freeware/>
- Freeware for College Teachers
<http://www.newfreedownloads.com/find/college.html>
- Freeware Licensing
<http://www.fsf.org/licensing>
- Open Source Sourceforge software
<http://sourceforge.net/>
- Open Source Windows software for teachers
<http://www.opensourcewindows.org/>
- Sofotex Test and Quiz Software
<http://www.sofotex.com/download/Education/>
- W3 Open Source Software
<http://www.w3.org/Status>
- Open Code search engine Koders
<http://www.koders.com>



OPEN GAMES

- Open Source Games for Windows

<http://osswin.sourceforge.net/games.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_open_source_games

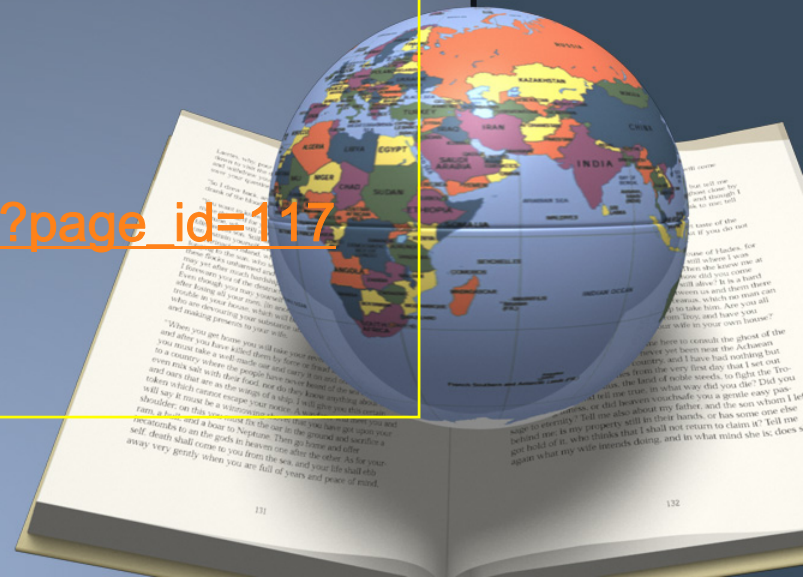
- The Open Game License (or OGL) is an open content license designed for role-playing games

- Free Gamer Blog

<http://freegamer.blogspot.com/>

Gaming in Libraries Course

http://www.gamesinlibraries.org/course/?page_id=117



OER FUNDING

- Shuttleworth Foundation

<http://www.shuttleworthfoundation.org/our-work/open-and-collaborative-resources>

- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

<http://www.hewlett.org/oer>

- Andrew W Mellon Foundation

<http://www.oerderives.org/>

- NIH

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/intro2oer.htm>





IN CONCLUSION

OER Research Articles

<http://learn.creativecommons.org/resources/>

http://wikieducator.org/Main_Page

- What is the university role in OER innovation?
- Changing how we teach and learn
- Sustainability issues
- Invitation to explore OER resources and opportunities for publishing
- 4 A's : affordability, accreditation, appropriateness, accessibility

