Open Educational Resources: Getting Started

Through participation in the Open.Michigan Initiative, University of Michigan faculty, researchers, and students are making their learning materials available as Open Educational Resources (OER). By applying open copyright licenses, these resources become freely available for use, remixing and redistribution to instructors, students, and self-learners worldwide.

Join the growing numbers of U-M faculty, researchers, and graduate students who are maximizing the impact and visibility of their work by making it open and freely available to the global learning community. Through the Open.Michigan OER Initiative, U-M teaching professionals are learning how to:

- Create their own open content

- License, publish, and promote their resources

- Connect with other collaborators

- Maximize the impact of their research

- Extend the reach of their teaching

Step-by-Step to Open Content

Whether you want to openly share a presentation, video, website, software, or an entire course—you start by selecting a license and then follow our guidelines to make your materials available as OER. For the complete story, refer to our website: **open.umich.edu/share**
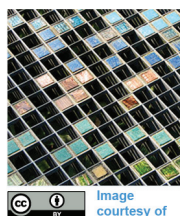
License your Work

The first step in creating open content is stating to others how you want them to use the content. By selecting an open license, you retain the copyright to your original work but give permission to others to copy and distribute your materials—provided they give you credit, and only on the conditions you specify.

Use Openly-Licensed Content

If you want to share your materials, why not create them using open content right from the start? Fortunately, there are several websites and repositories that you can browse to discover openly-licensed images, clip art, video, learning modules, music, and other relevant materials.

Cite your Sources

Now that you've found open content, you need to give proper attribution to the creators of these materials as you assemble your educational resources and projects. Make sure you credit the creator, provide the URL where the work is hosted, indicate if it is available under a particular license, provide a link to the license (so others can find out the license terms), and link to the original resource.

Image courtesy of

Share your Work

The most exciting part of creating open content is sharing it. We can help you publish and promote your content through the Open. Michigan Educational Resources website **open.umich.edu/education** or guide you to a number of our favorite content sharing sites that enable you to publish, promote, and collaborate with others around your OER.

How Open.Michigan Can Help

Open.Michigan helps people find, use, and create openly-licensed content and provides a space to share new content. The Open.Michigan Team provides a wealth of "self-help" resources to get you started creating and sharing your open content. To take that first step, have a look at our website: open.umich.edu. Once you get started, and you need some extra help, our Open Education Specialists can provide training for your faculty and students on how to create and license educational resources for open sharing.

To see the rapidly-expanding collection of OER materials created at U-M, go to **open.umich. edu/education.** If you have questions, or want to participate, send email to **open.michigan@umich. edu**.