OER can be a lot of things, and that's good! OER come in many types and come in many forms. This means that instructors are not limited – they can innovate! One of the misconceptions I've encountered in talking with faculty about OER is that they think open textbooks are the only kind of OER. Fortunately, that's not true! OER DOES include open textbooks, but OER also include whole self-contained courses, images, ancillary materials like testbanks and study guides, course modules, software, all kinds of media, and so much more!

Here are some great examples of OER that aren't textbooks!

Activities: H5P exercises and quizzes

Simulations: PhET Sims

Labs: Gel Electrophoresis Genetics Lab Sim

Videos: Class Piano Tutorials

Case Studies: Food Justice Primer

Homework Software: MyOpenMath

Lecture Slides & Lesson Plans: MIT Courseware

So…in a galaxy of OER types, what isn't OER? Well, anything that isn't BOTH free and open with the 5R permissions. This includes:

Library-licensed resources: they're free (to you) but not open.
Most blogs, podcasts, and websites: they're free but not (always) open.
Images you find on Google: they may be free but not open (check for the license).
Open access monographs: they may be free and open but may not be remixable.

But remember: if something isn't an OER, that doesn't mean you can't use it! Some of these resource types, like library-licensed resources, fall into the category of AER – AFFORDABLE education resources – which I'll discuss shortly.

So, about affordable education resources or AER. An AER is defined by LOUIS, the statewide academic library consortium, as "A single or collection of required educational resources that may be offered at no or low cost to a student through a post-secondary education institution or an affiliated college bookstore at a pre-sales tax cost to a student that does not exceed an amount equal to four times the federal minimum wage" (LOUIS, 2021).

/ R Z F Ri\aWpecific designation. In Louisiana, an AER cannot cost more than $29, based on Act 125.

As we discussed on the previous slide, library-licensed resources are AER not OER. Library resources are AER because they are "copyright-protected material" but they are purchased by the library and provided to the student at no cost.

Let me emphasize that again: these resources are W U D G L W L R Q D O O When F R S \ U L you use resources under the Fair Use statute, you are essentially using AER.

At the end of the day, SOMEONE has paid for an AER – either the institution or the student, but either way it helps the student obtain needed course materials while keeping costs for them down.

What are the pros and cons of AOER? I think it's important to be honest about the limitations of such resources. While they definitely seem like a great idea – and they are – there are downsides. But let's look at the up and downsides to AOER.

The Pros of AOER! Let's check out the upsides.

Let's consider some numbers. These percentages from ISU Student Survey, 2022, using a sample size of 1,913 students. Due to high textbook costs:

91% of students G H O D \ H G Q X deli F R X U V H materials.

70% of students W U L H G W R S D V V Z L required materials. X U F K D V L Q

65% of students G R Z Q O R D G H G mC materials online. R S L H V

34% of students had to S X U F K D V H W H [W E R R N V L Q V W H D G R

23% of students G U R S S H G , affecting their progress toward graduation.

These numbers don't truly reflect the other realities of how expensive a college education is or how vulnerable college students can be. In the US, 30-40% of college students experience food insecurity. 40-50% of them experience housing insecurity. Students have had to choose between buying food and/or paying rent and purchasing course materials. Food insecurity was initially the driving force to my dissertation, especially when the pandemic began to shine a light on the plight of college students. So, AOER have the capacity to help students manage costs. But AOER can do more than that!

In addition to be free or affordable, OER can support:

It can also showcase the capacity and expertise of your institution's faculty in

that you could leverage? LOUIS often shares grant opportunities or funding opportunities with which your library faculty could connect you.

Most importantly, consider what you need. Remember, you can create simple materials for use, like assignments or quizzes. If you are interested in creating OER, consider what gaps exist in the available OER – how might you fill that gap? Can you leverage materials created by colleagues? What AER could be used in the meantime?

And don't forget that there is support external to your institutions. Throughout the state and system, there are disciplinary working groups, state grants, and national organizations where you can find assistance and resources! And you have me, too!

AOER represent opportunities.

1. You can adopt, adapt, or create content for your course.

2. You can fully integrate OER or adopt only ancillaries.

3. Use the resources at your disposal--and be creative!

4. AER are a valid option as well – what does your library provide access to that could be leveraged?