Open Educational Resources (OER) Policy
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Definitions

OUSL: Refers to The Open University of Sri Lanka

Open Educational Resources (OER): Based on the Paris OER Declaration (UNESCO, 2012, p.1), OUSL interprets OER as

“teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. Open licensing is built within the existing framework of intellectual property rights as defined by relevant international conventions and respects the authorship of the work”.

OER Creation: This refers to the development/production of digital open content and its publication online with an open license

OER Integration: This is viewed as a logical and systematic approach to the “five Rs” (Hilton, Wiley, Stein & Johnson, 2010) of reusing, revising, remixing, redistributing and retaining of OER.

Knowledge Society: This is viewed as a community or formal association of people who acknowledges the strength of knowledge creation and are committed to make effective use of networking of people with similar interests and in this process contribute to this knowledge.
1 Declaration

OUSL will promote and implement the creation, reuse, remix, repurpose and redistribution of Open Educational Resources (OER) within an Open Licensing framework.

2 Specific Policy Statements

2.1 OUSL will promote, foster and reward all efforts towards the creation, integration, sharing, re-using and re-purposing of Open Educational Resources in course design, development and delivery in an e-learning environment for achieving increased quality and cost-efficiency.

2.2 OUSL, as publisher and copyright owner, will decide on the content to be published as OUSL-OER in consultation with the relevant Faculty / Department / Division.

2.3 OUSL academic and academic support staff will be committed to the philosophy of Open Educational Resources (OER) in building capacity and positive attitudes for effective OER creation and OER integration for the development and delivery of courses as well as other professional engagements.

2.4 All members of OUSL academic and academic support staff will plan and implement suitable academic activities involving the creation and use of Open Educational Resources by learners and thereby helping them acquire competencies required for a knowledge society.
3 Policy Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

3.1 formulate the necessary strategic inputs and outputs, tasks and performance indicators to achieve OER creation and integration in the development and delivery of OUSL courses;

3.2 develop awareness about the concept and practices related to OER among all OUSL staff;

3.3 build capacity among the academic and academic support staff for the creation, identification, storing and integration of OER in their professional engagements;

3.4 prepare all required guidelines and manuals for OER creation and integration including open licensing procedures;

3.5 establish an OER repository in the public domain containing OUSL open licensed materials and an in-house repository of external OER for use of OUSL staff;

3.6 procure/develop and install the required hardware and software infrastructure for OER creation and integration;

3.7 continuously monitor and ensure that the policies are implemented effectively;

3.8 develop and incorporate an effective feedback mechanism that will enable OUSL to take informed decisions for any mid-term revisions in the implementation of OER integration; and

3.9 consider and incorporate changes in the process according to international developments in the field and the requirements of OUSL.
4 Strategic Outputs

4.1 The design, development and production of course materials include the reusing and repurposing of available OER;

4.2 Commitment of the University in making available through a dedicated web portal selected content as OER for the greater use of the community;

4.3 Physical resources, human resources, financial resources and other relevant resources necessary for the implementation of the policy;

4.4 Provision of training and incentives to staff and faculties/departments/centers who are actively demonstrating adoption of OER policies;

4.5 A University policy on copyright aligned to its commitment and practice for OER adaptation and implementation;

5 Scope

This Policy applies to all academic and academic support bodies of OUSL including Faculties, Center for Educational Technology and Media (CETMe), Library, Registry as well as the academic functions in the Regional Centers.

6 Responsibility and Authority

The Council and Senate shall ensure compliance of this policy with the guidance of the OER-Steering Committee.

7 Policies and Procedures

7.1 OER Concept and Philosophy

- OER creation and integration in OUSL is viewed as a shared responsibility executed in centralized and decentralized ways;
- The Council and Senate shall play a major role in driving, promoting and supporting the University's OER integration initiative.
- All members of the University community to recognize and support OER practices;
- Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments and Directors of Support Divisions are responsible for ensuring that policy requirements are fulfilled among their own staff;
- Faculty members, academic support personnel, CETMe staff and Library staff will receive intensive training followed by regular ongoing expert support to become competent in OER creation and integration in OUSL courses.
7.2 OER Steering Committee (OER-SC)

An OER Steering Committee (OER-SC) plans and implements the OER integration initiative.

The composition of OER-SC shall be:

- Vice Chancellor (The Chairperson)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor
- Deans of Faculties
- Director, CETMe
- Director, IT
- Librarian
- Two representatives from each faculty
- Other relevant Experts (by invitation)

The OER-SC will meet at least once in every three months. The deliberations of the OER-SC meetings will be reported at the Senate.

7.3 Copyright

7.3.1 OUSL is the absolute owner of the copyright of any content created by the University;

7.3.2 OUSL will adopt a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0) license. http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

7.3.3 The license declaration on OER created by OUSL will be as follows:

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7.3.4 It is the responsibility of the author of the content to comply with 7.3.2 when revising or remixing existing OER into the material to ensure that the OUSL policy on OER is not violated;
7.4 Monitoring and Management

- The day to day operations under OER creation and integration initiative will be monitored and managed by the CETMe.
- The Library will be the custodian of managing the various OER repositories centrally.

7.5 Review Procedure

- The OER Steering Committee (OER-SC) will annually review the effectiveness of the OUSL OER Policy and prepare an OER Review Report;
- OER-SC Review Report shall be presented to the CETMe Board and subsequently to the Senate for endorsement and approval;
- If revisions are endorsed and approved, the OER-SC shall disseminate the revised policy to all stakeholders.

V1: Dr Ishan Abeywardena, Director International Academic Relation Division (11/12/2014)
Final: Dr Ishan Abeywardena, Director International Academic Relation Division (06/04/2015)
Final Revised: Dr Ishan Abeywardena, Director International Academic Relation Division (06/08/2015)

References and Attributions


