Teach Tomorrow: OER Lessons Today

Spring 2026

Dorann Avey - NDE

CC BY NC SA

Hello!

I am Dorann Avey

Digital Learning Director, Nebraska Department of Education

You can reach me at dorann.avey@nebraska.gov

Get A Copy of this Presentation

https://bit.ly/NeOER2026

Presentation Objectives

- ✘ OER Basics
- ✘ Creative Commons Licensing/Site
- ✘ How to create an account
- ✘ Searching for Content in the Hub
- ✘ How to save content & use content today
- ✘ OER outside the Nebraska OER hub

"IN too many School Districts, we still have schools that, despite the heroic Efforts of a lot of great teachers, are not fully preparing our kids for success because they just don't have the resources to do it or the structure to do it"

~Barack Obama

Why OER?

- ✘ Limited Planning time
- ✘ Outdated or rigid materials
- ✘ BUDGET Constraints
- ✘ FLexible solutions
- ✘ Breaks Silos

OER Defined

Open Educational Resources (OER) is a term used to describe teaching and learning materials that reside in the **public domain** or have been released under an **open license**, so that these materials can be *used, adapted, redistributed* with no restrictions or with limited restrictions at no cost to learners.

Benefits of Open Education Resources (OER)

- ✘ Increased access to high-quality educational resources
- ✘ Students have equitable access to up-to-date, relevant content
- ✘ Teachers can tailor learning materials to student needs
- ✘ Education systems are able to reallocate dollars to other pressing needs
- ✘ Flexible when budgets are tight

Free vs. Open

- ✘ Free = no cost
- ✘ Open = customizable + shareable
- ✘ OER is both!

OER Free & Reuse Rights

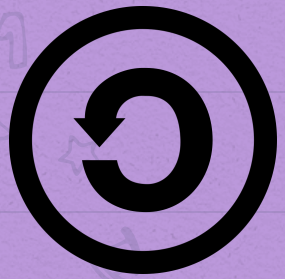
Retain	❖ Make and own copies
Reuse	❖ Use in a wide range of ways
Revise	❖ Adapt, modify and improve
Remix	❖ Combine two or more
Redistribute	❖ Share with others

Copyright vs. Creative Commons/Open Licenses

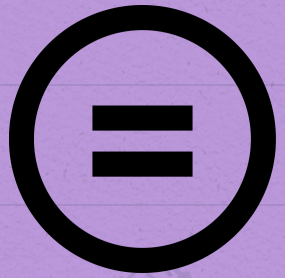
Creative Commons/Open Licenses

BY = Credit must be given to the creator (IN ALL)

Non-Commercial = Only noncommercial uses of the work are permitted

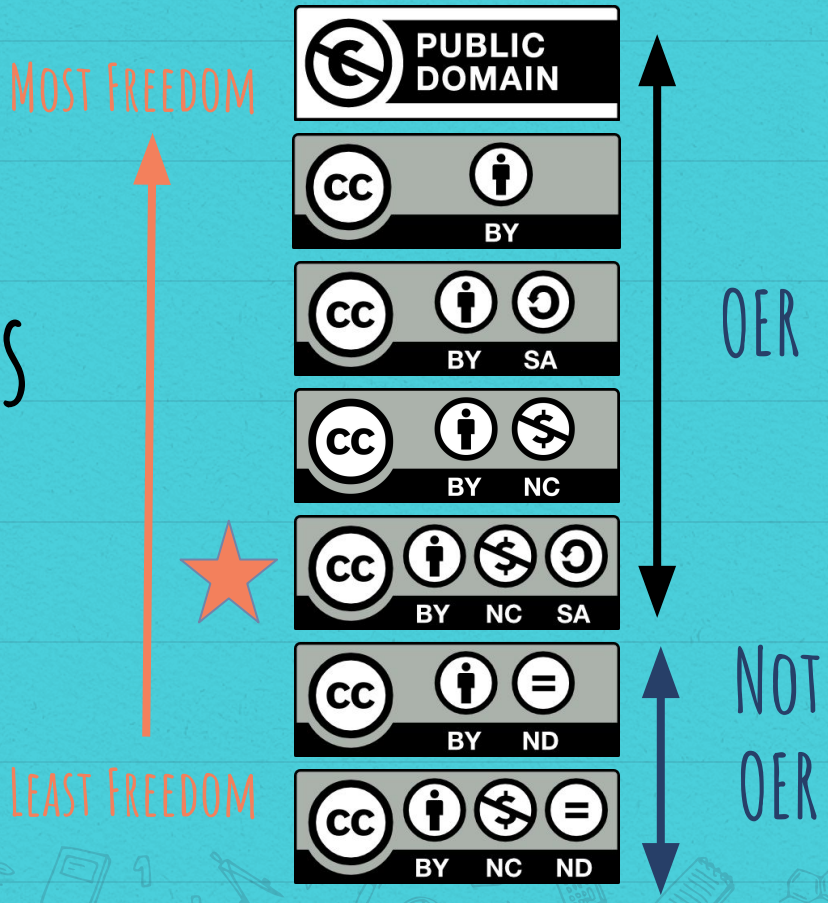


Share Alike = Adaptations must be shared under the same terms



No Derivatives = No derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted

Creative Commons Licenses

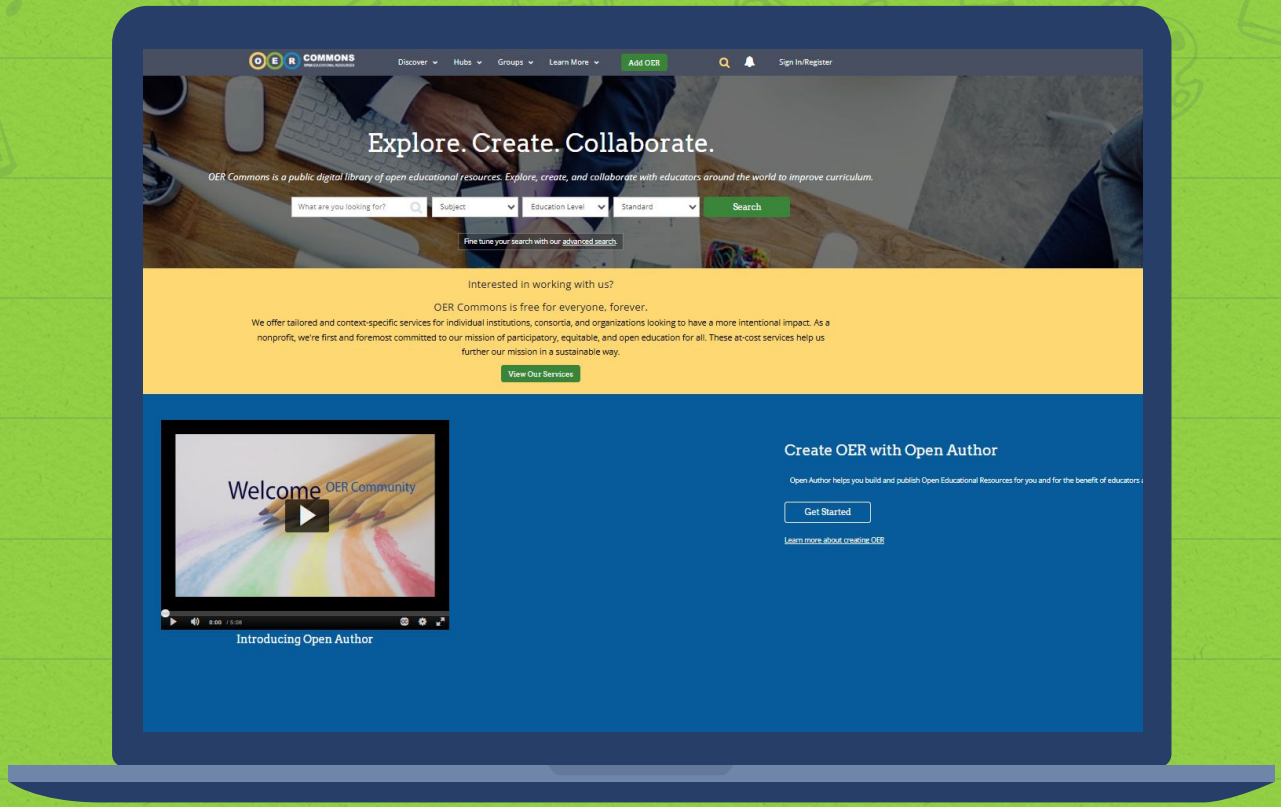


Ways OER can support today's classrooms

- 1:1 Users
- Constructivist Learning Models
- LMS Users/Google Classroom
- Blended Learning
- Flipped Classrooms
- Supplementing Learning
- Self-Teaching/Homeschooling
- Online Schools and courses
- Remote Learning
- Synchronous/Asynchronous

What types of content can be OER?

- **Entire Courses**
- **Course modules**
- **E-textbooks**
- Streaming video of lectures
- Professional Development
- **Units of Study**
- Assessments
- Software
- Video
- Activities
- Lesson Plans
- A Photograph
- Rubrics
- Charts
- Journals
- Practice Exercises



OER Commons.org

NOTE!

Need a valid email account (some districts firewalls are too strict so you may want to use a personal account)

Create A Free Account

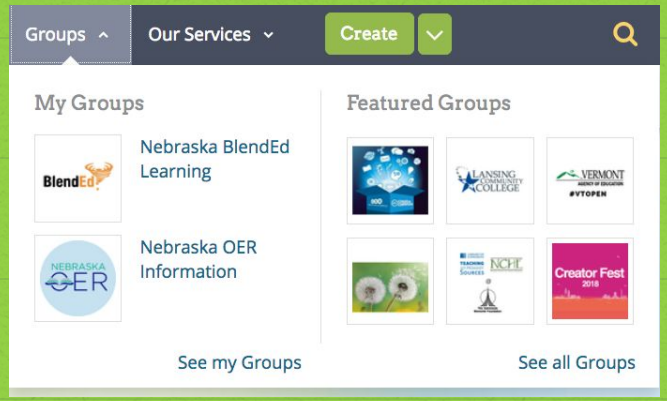
Start finding the resources you need, saving them, using them and modifying them

Using Groups

- ✘ Look at FCS Group Discussion
- ✘ Sends you an email when topic added
- ✘ Share new resources
- ✘ Get feedback on your work
- ✘ Ask for resources
- ✘ SAVE FOR INCLUSION TO COLLECTION

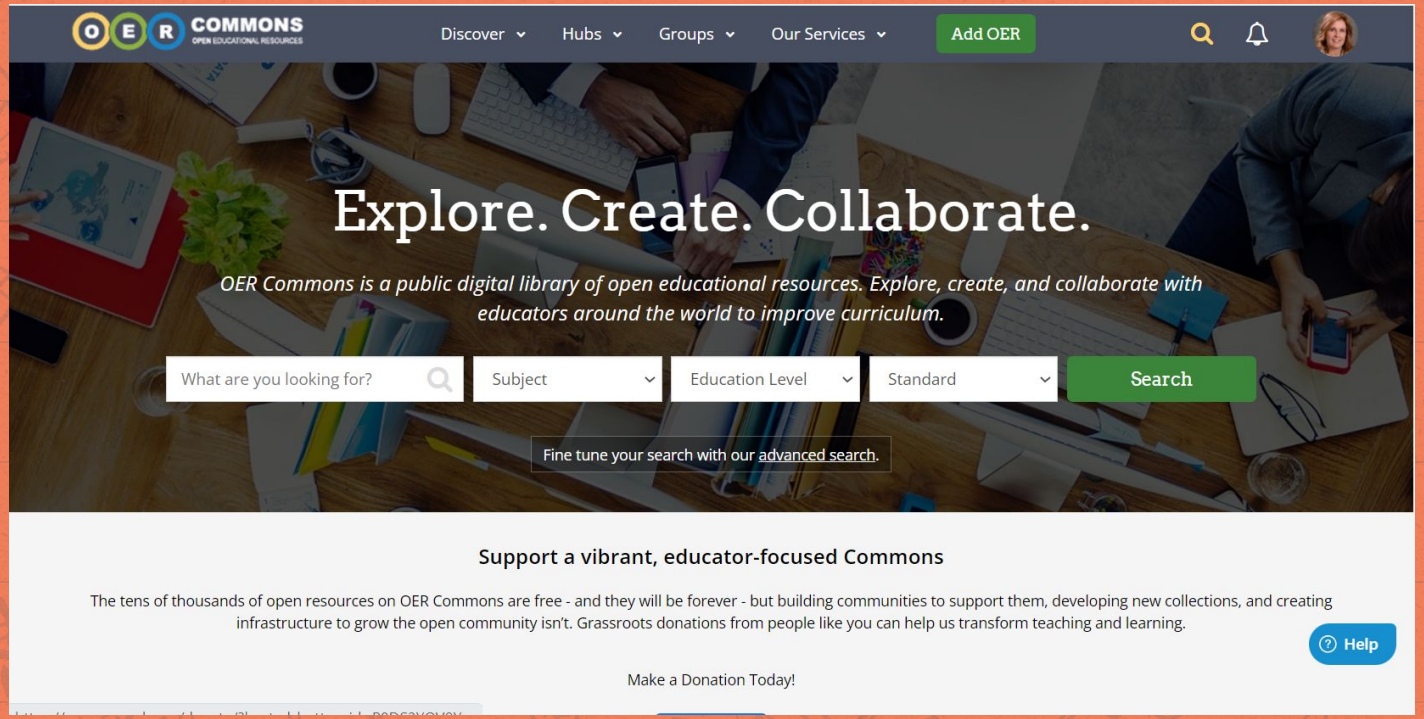
How to join a group

Groups



- Groups serve different functions in different hubs
- For NE we use them as working groups for workshops and paid summer work
- Gives you access to NE standards
- Makes you a member of NE hub
- Can join multiple groups

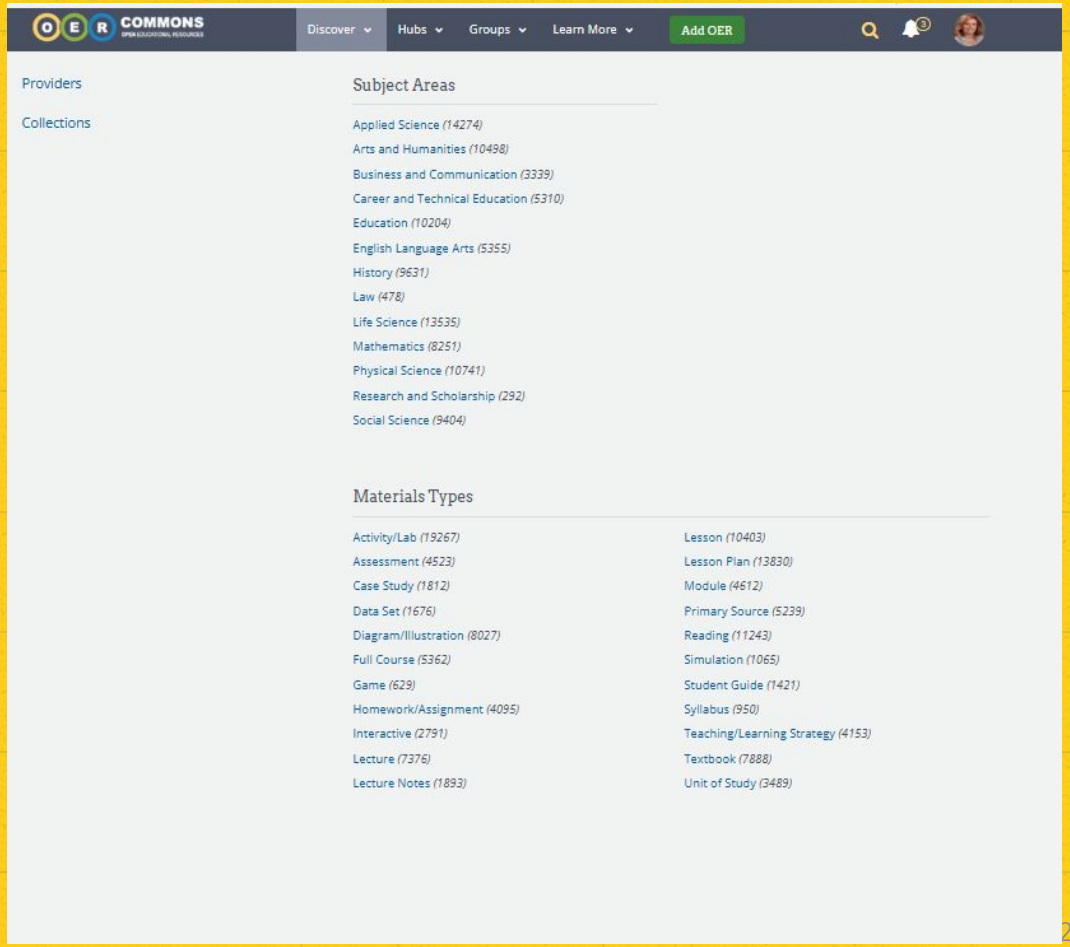
Exploring the OER Common's site

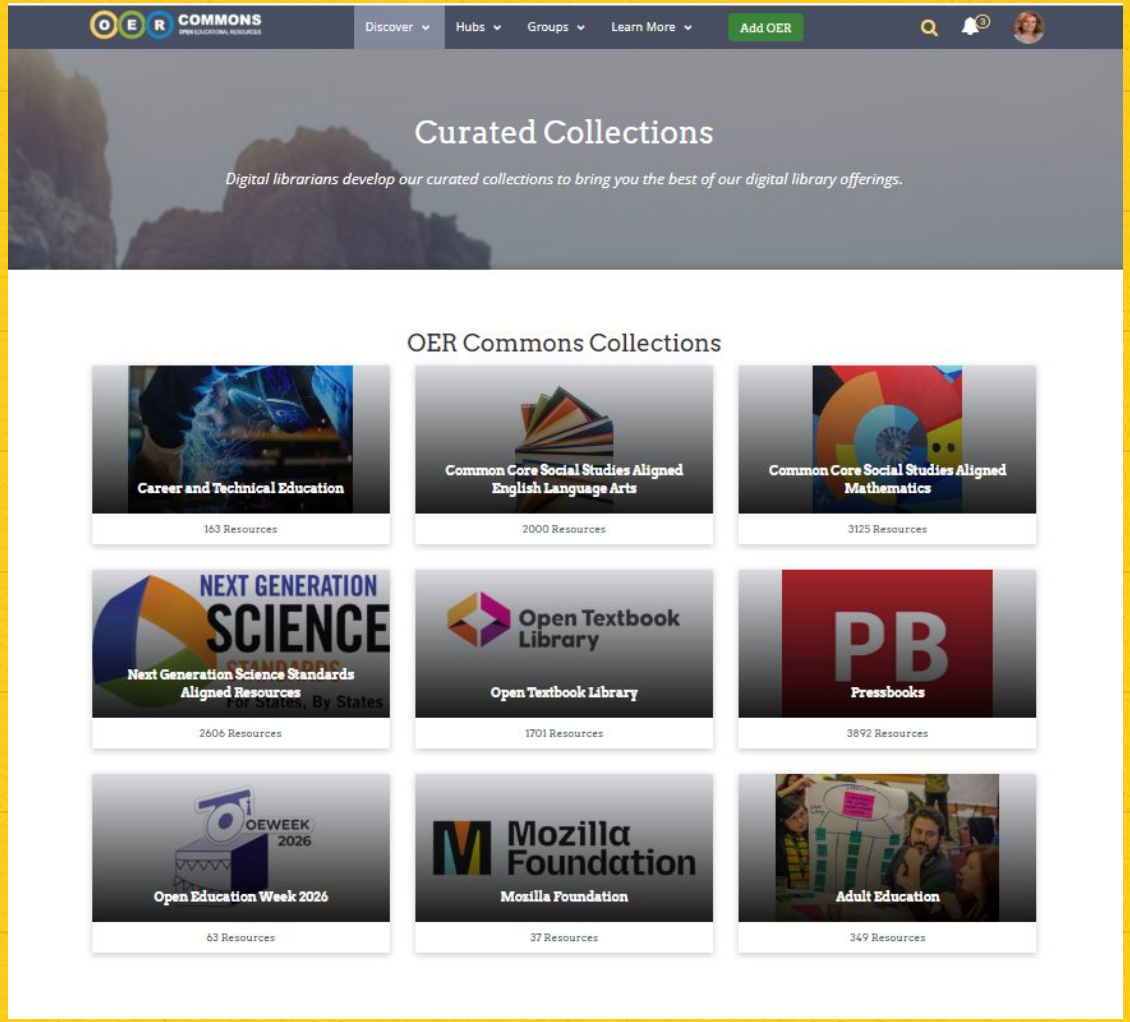


Discover Drop Down

- Resources - Explore by Subject area or material type
- Collections - Some of the many available collections (most are in the NDE Hub)
- Providers - Colleges, nonprofits and other education resource providers ie. Khanmigo, CK12, NASA, Federal Reserve

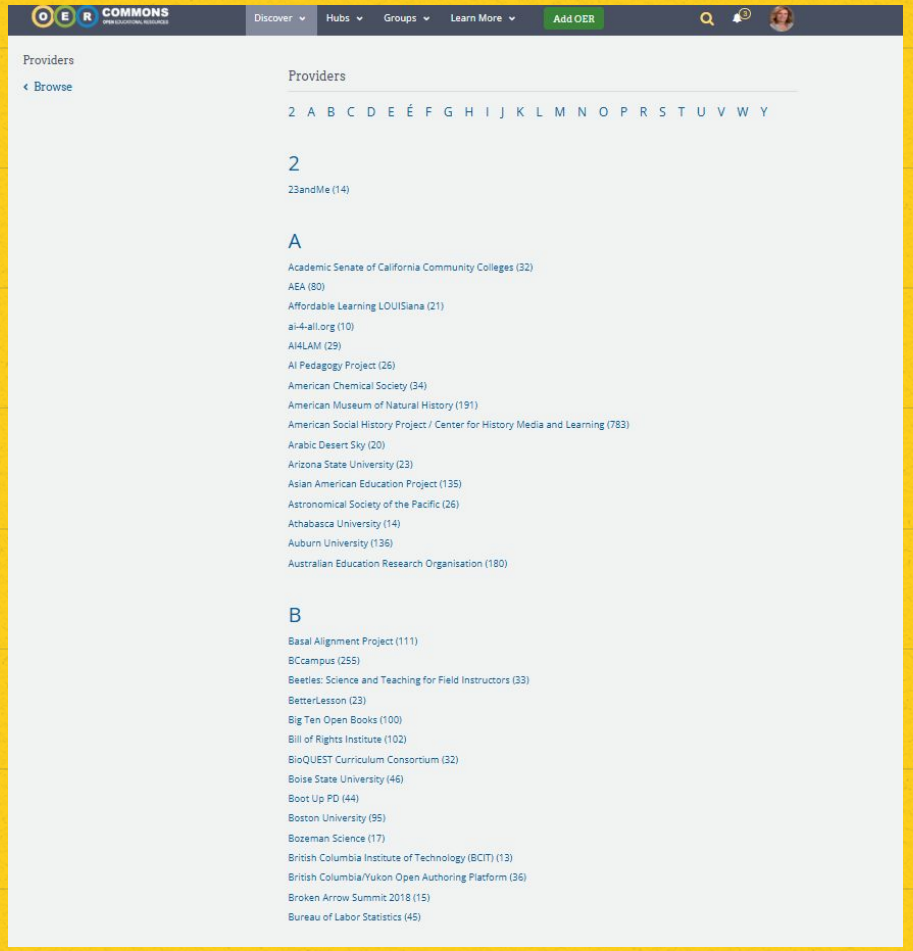
Resources


OER COMMONS
Discover
Hubs
Groups
Learn More
Add OER
Providers
Collections
Subject Areas
Applied Science (14274)
Arts and Humanities (10498)
Business and Communication (3339)
Career and Technical Education (5310)
Education (10204)
English Language Arts (5355)
History (9631)
Law (478)
Life Science (13535)
Mathematics (8251)
Physical Science (10741)
Research and Scholarship (292)
Social Science (9404)
Materials Types
Activity/Lab (19267)
Assessment (4523)
Case Study (1812)
Data Set (1676)
Diagram/Illustration (8027)
Full Course (5362)
Game (629)
Homework/Assignment (4095)
Interactive (2791)
Lecture (7376)
Lecture Notes (1893)
Lesson (10403)
Lesson Plan (13830)
Module (4612)
Primary Source (5239)
Reading (11243)
Simulation (1065)
Student Guide (1421)
Syllabus (950)
Teaching/Learning Strategy (4153)
Textbook (7888)
Unit of Study (3489)

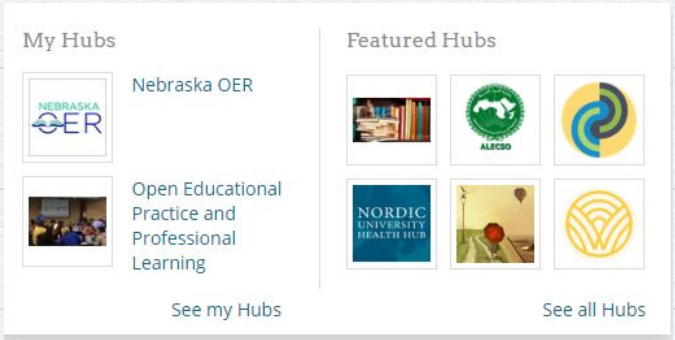


Collections

Providers

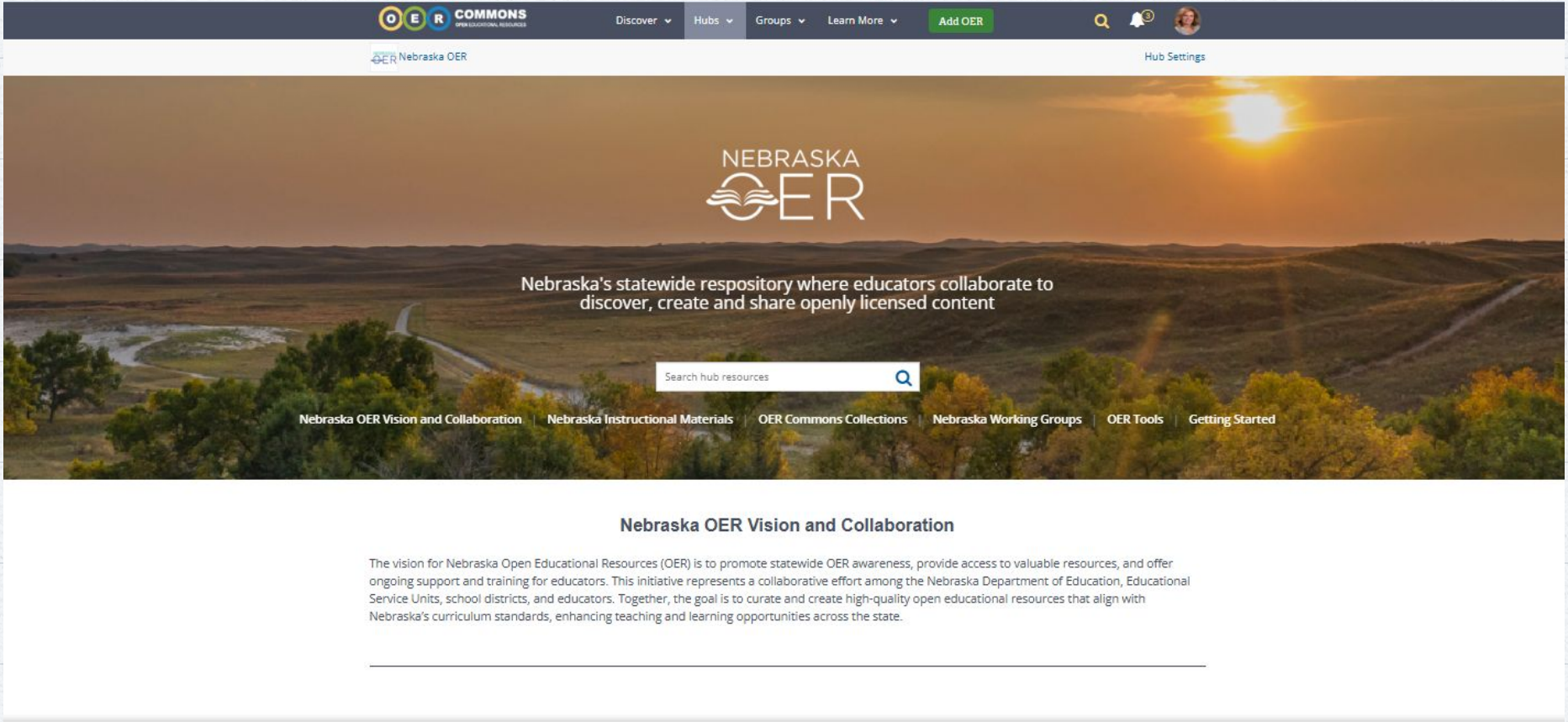

COMMONS
Discover
Hubs
Groups
Learn More
Add OER
Providers
Browse
Providers
2 A B C D E É F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W Y
2
23andMe (14)
A
Academic Senate of California Community Colleges (32)
AEA (80)
Affordable Learning LOUISiana (21)
ai-4-all.org (10)
AI4LAM (29)
AI Pedagogy Project (26)
American Chemical Society (34)
American Museum of Natural History (191)
American Social History Project / Center for History Media and Learning (783)
Arabic Desert Sky (20)
Arizona State University (23)
Asian American Education Project (135)
Astronomical Society of the Pacific (26)
Athabasca University (14)
Auburn University (136)
Australian Education Research Organisation (180)
B
Basal Alignment Project (111)
BCcampus (255)
Beetles: Science and Teaching for Field Instructors (33)
BetterLesson (23)
Big Ten Open Books (100)
Bill of Rights Institute (102)
BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium (32)
Boise State University (46)
Boot Up PD (44)
Boston University (95)
Bozeman Science (17)
British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) (13)
British Columbia/Yukon Open Authoring Platform (36)
Broken Arrow Summit 2018 (15)
Bureau of Labor Statistics (45)

Hubs



- State Hubs
  - NE, IA, NH, MD, OR, WA . . .
- College Hubs
  - MI, MA, CA, UC-Davis . . .
- Non- Profit Hubs
  - UNESCO, OpenStax . . .
- Like minded Hubs
  - AI, School Librarians, STEM . . .

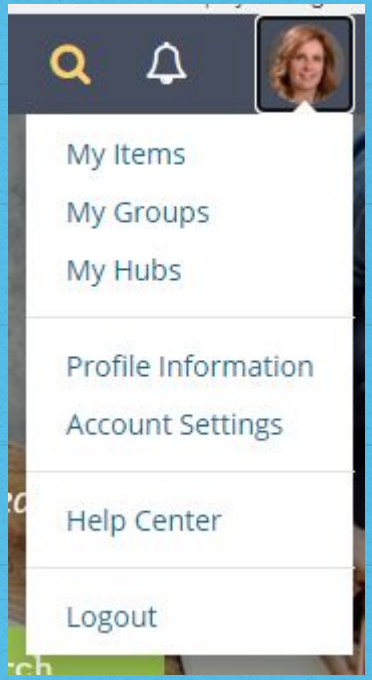
Nebraska OER Hub



Nebraska OER Hub Overview & Features

- NE Standards ready to align (must be in working group)
- Popular Collections are localized (need aligned to standards)
- NE approved and aligned collections being developed
- NE groups working to vet and curate content
- SSO within the Nebraska Cloud
- Canvas LMS and Google Classroom Integration
- NE Repository begin populated with other content over time

Updating your Profile

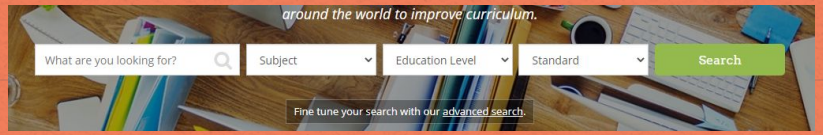


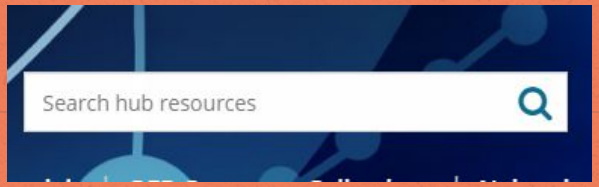
- My items - has all your saved and created content, can make folders
- Another way to access groups you join
- Another way to access hubs your a member of
- Profile - need to update for ease of approving your work
- Logout- if you don’t log out you will stay logged in for quite a while

Returning to the main window

- Getting back to home pages is helpful
- 2 ways
  - Click the OER Commons image in top left
  - Click the Nebraska hub image in top left

Finding content





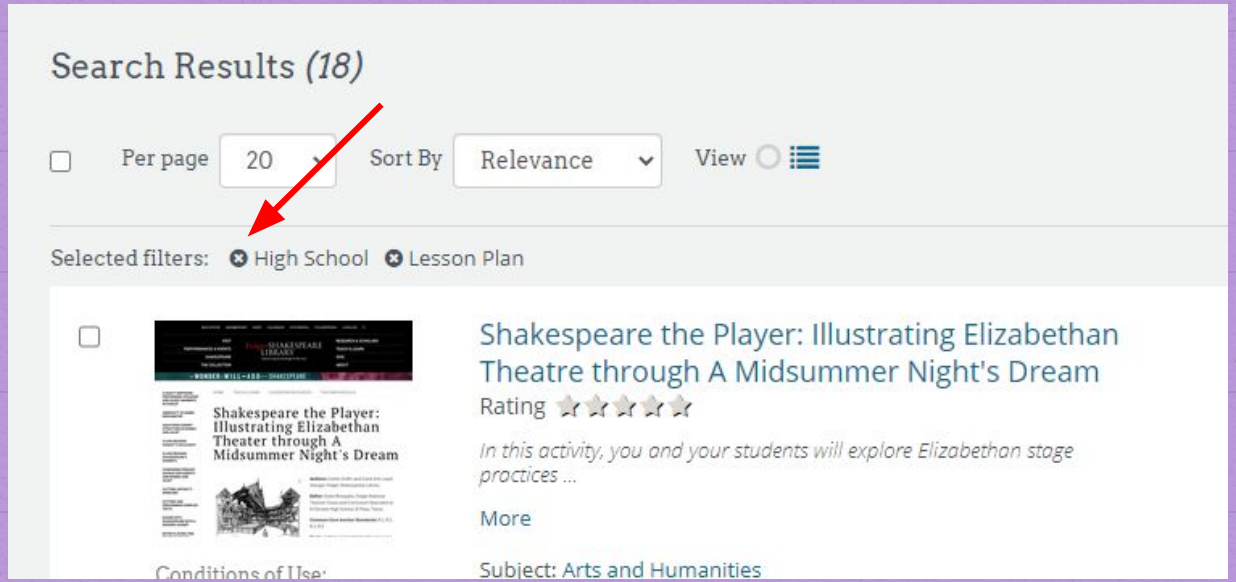
- Multiple ways to search and refine your search
- Gold spyglass or main Commons page will find everything
- Search bar with blue spyglass in NE hub will looks through only items within the hub

Narrowing your search

Filter By

- Education Standards
- Subject Area
- Education Level
- Material Type
- License Types
- Content Source
- Primary User
- Media Format
- Educational Use
- Language
- Providers

Removing search parameters



To remove a search parameter just click on the cancel button at the top of the search page

Saving to "My Items"

- Search and collect items for a lesson, unit or course
- Save these items to "My Items" or folder within
- Vet and align the items later

OER Documents

- ✘ California Educators Together
- ✘ Michigan
- ✘ North Carolina
- ✘ Your content specific OER guide

Simple Workflow

1. Find
2. Evaluate
3. Adapt
4. Teach
5. Save

START SMALL

- Try one lesson this week
- Replace one activity or worksheet
- Fill a gap

STEP 1 - FIND

- Pick a standard
- Search one OER site
- Choose one resource

Step 2 Evaluate

- CTE Vetting Rubric
- Achieve Rubric (Built In)

STEP 3 - ADAPT

- Adjust wording
- Add directions
- Links to prior learning
- Support your learners - Scaffolding, UDL or other

Step 4 - Teach

- Try it in class
- Note what worked
- Make Adaptations

Step 5 - Build Your Library

- Save for reuse
- Organize resources
- Reuse, update and refine (continuous)
- Share with colleagues

OER Resources for curation

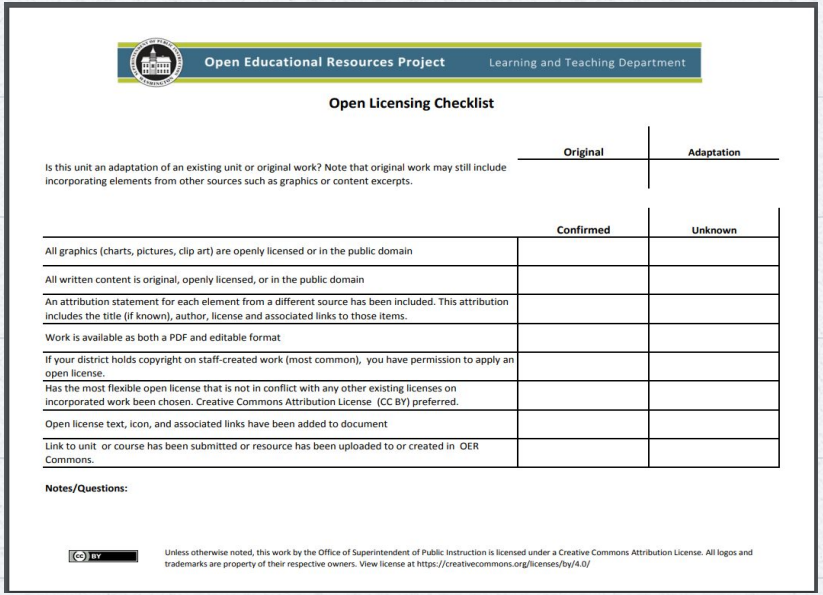
OER Curation Checklist

Citation Example:

CK-12 Biology for High School by CK-12 is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 License.

Shortened version

CK-12 Biology for High School by CK-12 | CC BY NC



Open Educational Resources Project — Learning and Teaching Department

Open Licensing Checklist

	Original	Adaptation
Is this unit an adaptation of an existing unit or original work? Note that original work may still include incorporating elements from other sources such as graphics or content excerpts.		

	Confirmed	Unknown
All graphics (charts, pictures, clip art) are openly licensed or in the public domain		
All written content is original, openly licensed, or in the public domain		
An attribution statement for each element from a different source has been included. This attribution includes the title (if known), author, license and associated links to those items.		
Work is available as both a PDF and editable format		
If your district holds copyright on staff-created work (most common), you have permission to apply an open license.		
Has the most flexible open license that is not in conflict with any other existing licenses on incorporated work been chosen. Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) preferred.		
Open license text, icon, and associated links have been added to document		
Link to unit or course has been submitted or resource has been uploaded to or created in OER Commons.		

Notes/Questions:

Unless otherwise noted, this work by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License. All logos and trademarks are property of their respective owners. View license at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

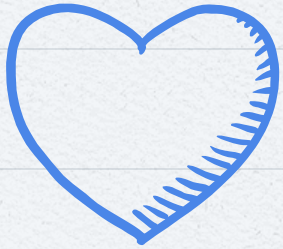
OER Resources for curation

Download Creative Commons License Logos | Creative Commons

https://creativecommons.org/about/downloads

Help also in OER Commons Hub - OER information group

creative commons



THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at dorann.avey@nebraska.gov