Library Support for Open Educational Resources (OER)

Ali Versluis | OER Librarian | versluis@uoguelph.ca

What are open educational resources (OER)?

Educational materials that are **openly licensed** and **freely available** for anyone to **use and reuse.**

What can open educational resources look like?

- Textbooks
- Videos
- Modules
- Infographics
- Podcasts
- Courseware
- Visualizations
- Question banks and quizzes
- Software
- Tools, materials, techniques
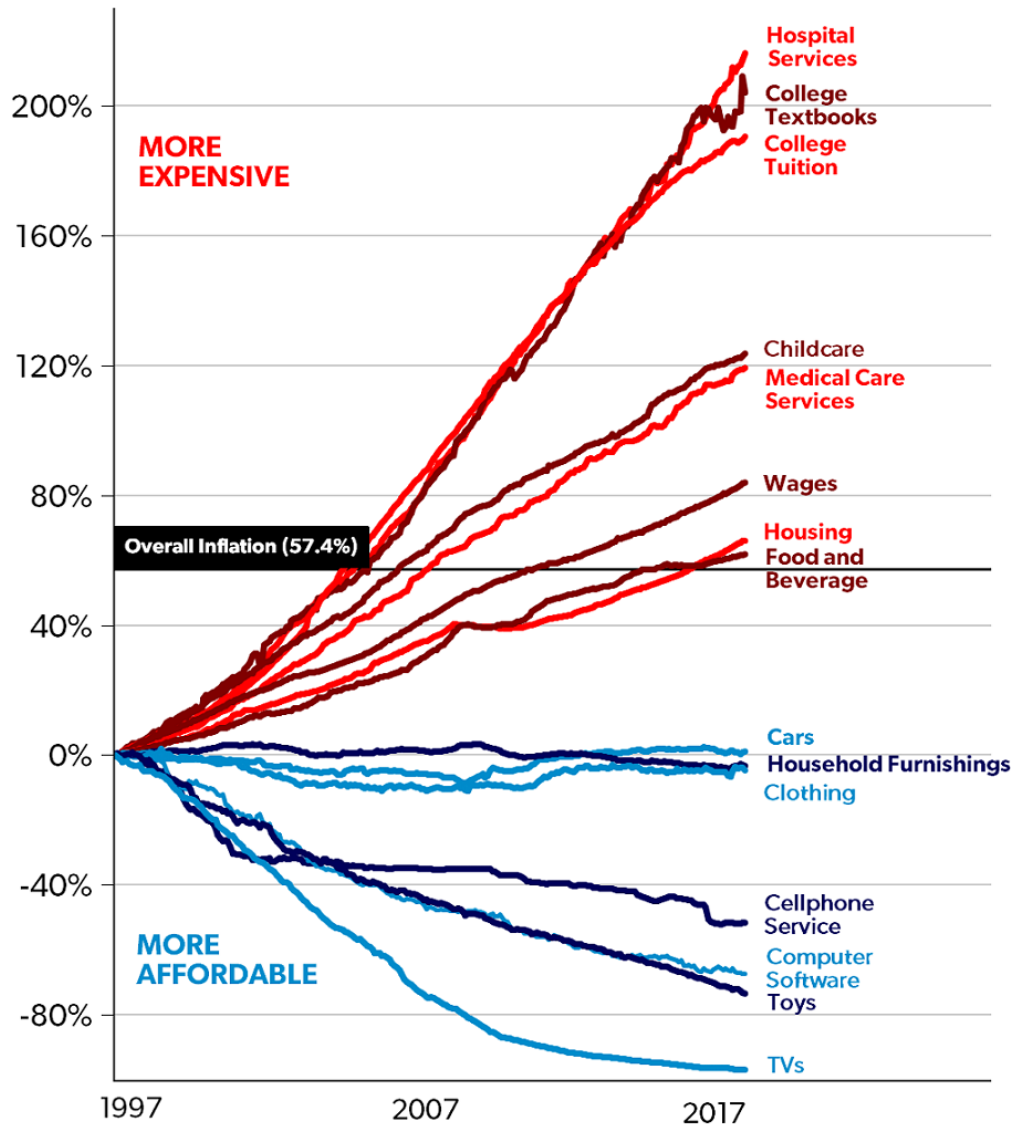
Format type isn't as important as licensing.

Any resources can be used for learning.

Why do open educational resources matter?

Cost

Price Changes (January 1997 to June 2018)
Selected US Consumer Goods and Services, Wages

MORE EXPENSIVE

200%

160%

120%

80%

Overall Inflation (57.4%)

40%

0%

-40%

MORE AFFORDABLE

-80%

Hospital Services
College Textbooks
College Tuition

Childcare
Medical Care Services

Wages

Housing
Food and Beverage

Cars
Household Furnishings
Clothing

Cellphone Service

Computer Software
Toys

TVs

1997   2007   2017

Source: BLS

Carpe Diem *AEI*

Purchasing and other behaviour at UofG

Amount Spent on Textbooks

	% of respondents	Comparison, Fall 2016
$0 - 250	46%	32%
$251 - 500	36%	40%
$501 - 750	13%	20%
$751 - 1000	4%	6%
$1000-1500	1%	1%
More than $1500	0%	0%

Number of required textbooks not purchased

	% of respondents
1	32%
2	34%
3	16%
4	8%
5 or more	6%

The (potential) result...

54%   Not purchase the required text

30%   Earn a lower grade

27%   Take fewer courses

26%   Not register for a specific course

17%   Drop or withdraw from a course

Jhangiani, R.S., & Jhangiani. S. (2017). Investigating the perceptions, use, and impact of open textbooks: A survey of post-secondary students in British Columbia. *The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*.

Improved teaching

- Customized to learning outcomes and course structure (Jung, Bauer, and Heaps 2017)
- Improves teaching (Pitt 2015)
- Can be updated as needed
- Potential increased impact

Improved learning

- Contextual, nuanced material ([Guring 2017](#))
- Increased engagement
- Improved performance ([Jhangiani, Dastur, La Grand, Penner 2018](#), [Morales and Baker 2018](#))
- Immediate access
- Flexible formats

What sort of projects can I support?

- Assisting with finding, curating, and evaluating open materials for existing or proposed courses

- Interpreting open (Creative Commons) and traditional licensing and copyright

- Migrating self-created textbooks or course materials into more accessible, open formats (while preserving copyright / IP)

A few last words...

- I know this is work!
- Openness is a spectrum
  - No "one size fits all" approach
- Open takes time
- Low/no cost options exist for every course

Questions?

versluis@uoguelph.ca