

**Enhancing teacher education through OER:**

**Criteria for evaluating OER**

With such a large number available, it can be difficult to find OER that are useful to you. As a first step it’s important to think about the criteria that you will use in selecting useful OER. These criteria will include appropriateness, adaptability and quality.

The TESS-India OER have undergone a process of critical review and quality assurance, but not all OER have undergone a quality assurance process. Therefore, it is important judge the quality of the OER.

*Creating open educational resources* (<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/creating-open-educational-resources/content-section-0>), an OER by The Open University, says that good OER have the following characteristics:

* findable – it can be in multiple locations; this makes it easy for users to locate the OER
* clearly described – so that you can quickly assess whether it will be useful for you and/or your teacher–learners
* clearly licensed (usually through Creative Commons) – this tells you if you can adapt the OER and other conditions of use
* from a source you trust
* being used by/recommended by people like you
* easy to modify for your students
* free-standing – it does not assume knowledge of other resources and is easier to integrate into a course or learning episode
* imperfect – it just needs to work for you and/or your teacher–learners.

You should also consider the view of learning that informs the OER, and whether this is in line with the shifts in teaching and learning processes that you want to support.