Open Educational Resources (OER) Repositories and Collections

In this video, we'll look at open educational resource repositories. These are collections of freely available educational content and activities.

You may be asking yourself a few questions, like:

- Where should I search?
- How do I know if the resource is truly open?

This video will go over some popular ways to find open educational resources (OER).

We begin with **Creative Commons Search**. This allows you to access services provided by organizations that support OER. As a reminder, you should always verify that the work you find is under a Creative Commons license.

Now let's explore some specific sites that provide open educational resources for our use:

- **OER Commons** is a dynamic digital library created by the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME). From a single point of access, OER Commons allows you to search over 50,000 OER.
- **Curriki**'s mission is to eliminate the education divide by hosting thousands of educator-vetted, openly licensed online educational materials. It also allows for the creation of Curriki Groups where students and teachers can collaborate and contribute free, openly licensed, high-quality digital resources to enable equitable, transformative learning experiences. Material is vetted and meets Michigan standards.
- The **MERLOT project** began in 1997 when the California State University Center for Distributed Learning developed and provided free access to MERLOT. The MERLOT collection consists of tens of thousands of discipline-specific learning materials, learning exercises, and content builder web pages. These items are contributed by community members across the globe.
- **PBS Learning Media** provides access to thousands of innovative, standards-aligned digital resources, student experiences, and professional development opportunities. Resources at this site include videos, images, interactives, lesson plans, and articles drawn from PBS programs and other content contributors, such as NASA and the National Archives.
- The **North Carolina Learning Object Repository**'s mission is to provide a centralized location for quality learning resources for all teachers in North Carolina. This site houses documents, audio/video clips, simulations, learning modules, assessments, and many other types of digitized learning resources.
- The **California Open Online Library for Education (Cool4Ed)** provides a variety of free and open resources including textbooks, course materials, online courses, journals, articles, and other materials. Many of these resources are most appropriate at the high school level and beyond, although they could be adapted for a younger audience as well.

We recommend you take time to explore some of these repositories. Your next great lesson could be your next "click."

If you'd like to view any of the resources mentioned in this presentation, please visit their respective websites.