

Multi-Sector Expansion of Open Educational Resources (OER)

Lessons from Texas



Annual Policy Conference
August 8-11, 2022

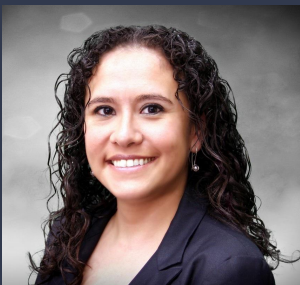


**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD



Presenters

Michelle Singh



Assistant Commissioner
Division of Digital Learning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
michelle.singh@highered.texas.gov

Rebecca Karoff



Associate Vice Chancellor
Office of Academic Affairs
University of Texas System
rkaroff@utsystem.edu

Emma Gelsinger



Research & Policy Analyst
Office of Academic Affairs
University of Texas System
egelsinger@utsystem.edu



Judith Sebesta

Executive Director
Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas
judith.sebesta@austincc.edu

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board– Division of Digital Learning (November 2020)

- The mission of the Division of Digital Learning is to provide **leadership** and **advocacy** for digital learning in higher education and promote, sustain, and advance a **quality digital learner experience** positioning Texas as a world leader and resulting in **globally competitive digitally proficient citizens**.
- **Institutions of Higher Education: ~170**
 - **University Systems: 7**

University of Texas System

- Largest of 7 university systems in Texas with 243,000 students
- Several institutions are strong leaders in OER
- Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force & Report
- Established Momentum on OER Priorities



Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas

- Serves 50 public Texas community college districts
- Assists Texas community colleges in providing learners an education without barriers.
- Initiatives:
 - Course Sharing (via Partnership with Acadeum)
 - Texas Quality Matters Consortium
 - Open Educational Resources
 - Research



Session Outcomes

- Sharing of key resources and strategies that are transferable and replicable in other states and higher education systems.
- A broader understanding of the benefits and impact of Open Educational Resources beyond affordability.
- Insights into expansion and collaboration across sectors – SHEEO, 2-year and 4-year, consortial.
- Opportunities and challenges related to the tracking and expansion of Open Educational Resources.

OER Definition

(Texas Education Code)

Open Educational Resources (OER) are defined in the [Texas Education Code, Section 51.451](#) as “teaching, learning, or research resources that are in the public domain or that have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use, adaptation, and redistribution by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, media, assessments, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques, whether digital or otherwise, used to support access to knowledge.”

OER & The Open Agenda

Free (to students) teaching and learning materials that can be used, modified, and reused without having to ask for copyright permission because of their intellectual property license.

- Equity-centered
- Democratization of Knowledge
- Affordability
- Advancement of Social Justice
- Collaboration & Innovation



RETAIN

keep open content indefinitely



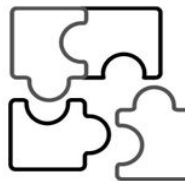
REUSE

use content when needed



REVISE

modify content for relevancy



REMIX

combine with other open resources

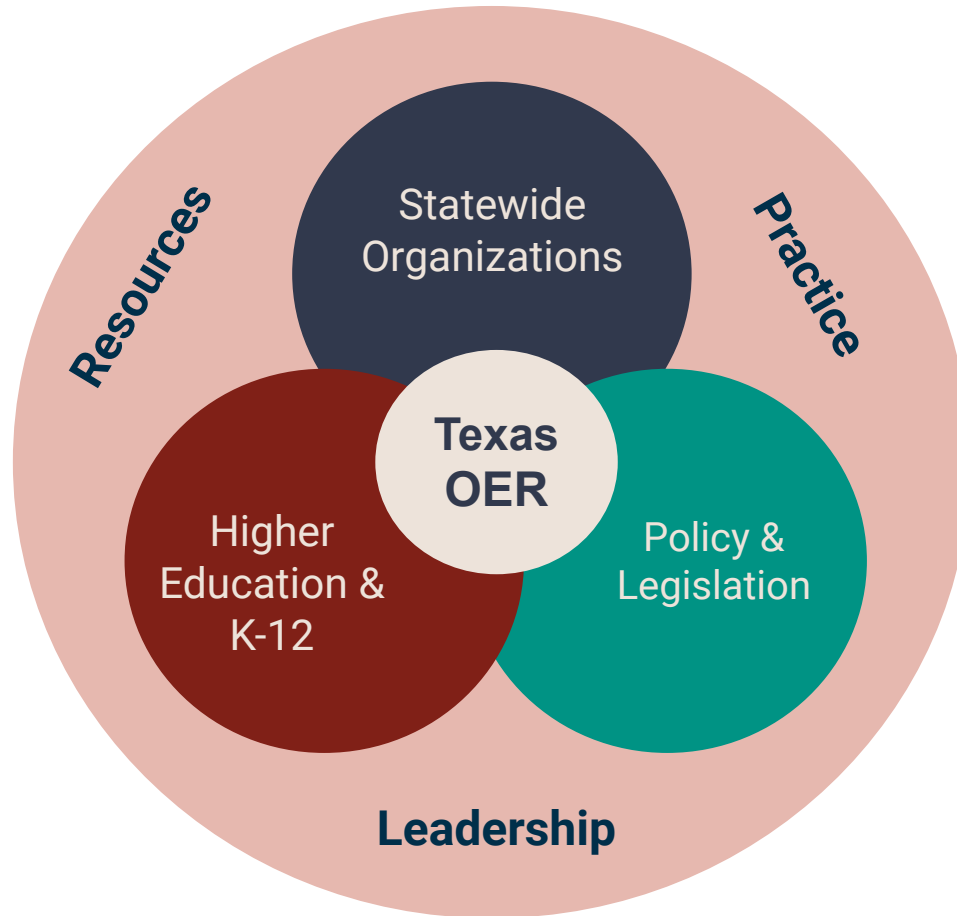


REDISTRIBUTE

share content in any context

Given the size and diversity of Texas, how does the advancement of equity and social justice drive the OER work at your organization?

Landscape of OER in Texas



Course Materials Legislation

[SB 810](#) (2017) - Established a grant program (2018) through the THECB to encourage the use of open educational resources at Texas public institutions of higher education and required that higher education institutions identify OER in published course schedules.

[HB 3652](#) (2019) - Required the THECB to develop and maintain a web portal customized to meet the needs of IHEs, students and others who may benefit from access to OER. See also “[A Study on the Feasibility of a Texas Repository of Open Educational Resources](#)”

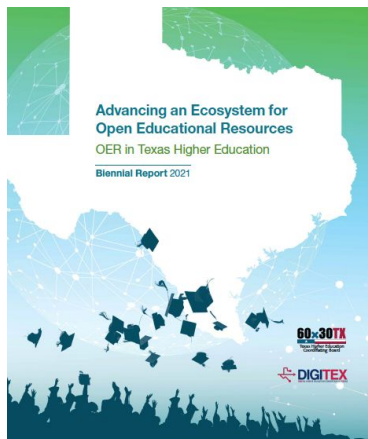
[HB 3650](#) (2019) - Required “any agreement made between a school district and a public institution of higher education to provide for a dual credit program to consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources”.

[HB 1027](#) (2021) - Required dissemination of required course materials to include the publication of course schedules with lists of required and recommended course materials, including all associated costs or whether an item is an OER, and a required OER filter for searchable course schedules.

What have been some unintended consequences of Texas legislation on OER?

What are some of the benefits of Texas legislation on OER?

Resources for OER: Texas



Momentum on Open Educational Resources (MOER)

The MOER website serves as an information hub designed to showcase and motivate greater engagement with Open Educational Resources (OER) across the UT System which includes:

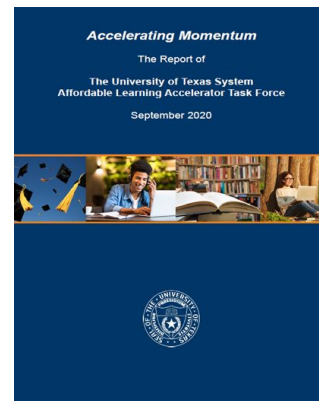
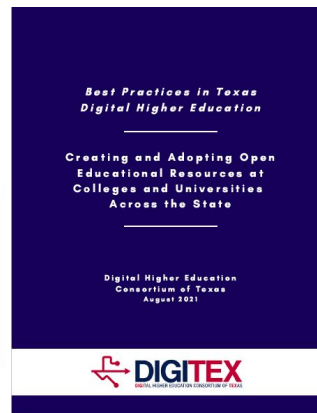
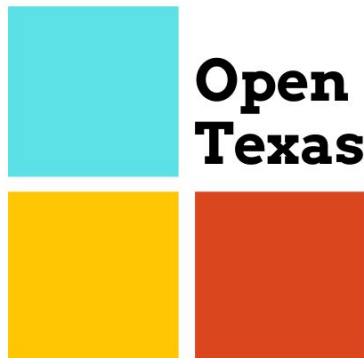
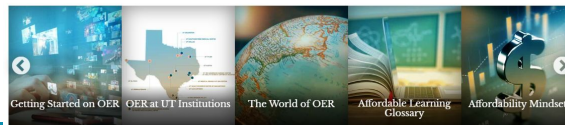
It is designed to inform and educate users about the affordability challenges faced by students at UT institutions and across the country, and the ways in which higher educators can use OER to help resolve them.

The website also serves as the repository for the recommendations from the UT System Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force, convened between April 2019-August 2020. Along with implementation guidelines, strategies and best practices, it features OER work at UT institutions, and houses tools for engagement, a resource guide, and other supplemental material and information developed by the task force.

What's New in OER?

- **Advancing an Ecosystem for Open Educational Resources: OER in Texas Higher Education** - a new report from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, DigITEX, and ISOME
- **Twenty Years of Open Educational Resources: Building Robust Networks for Innovation** - a new report from the Hewlett Foundation

► UT System Priority Areas



What have been the most valuable partnerships and resources in advancing OER in Texas?

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

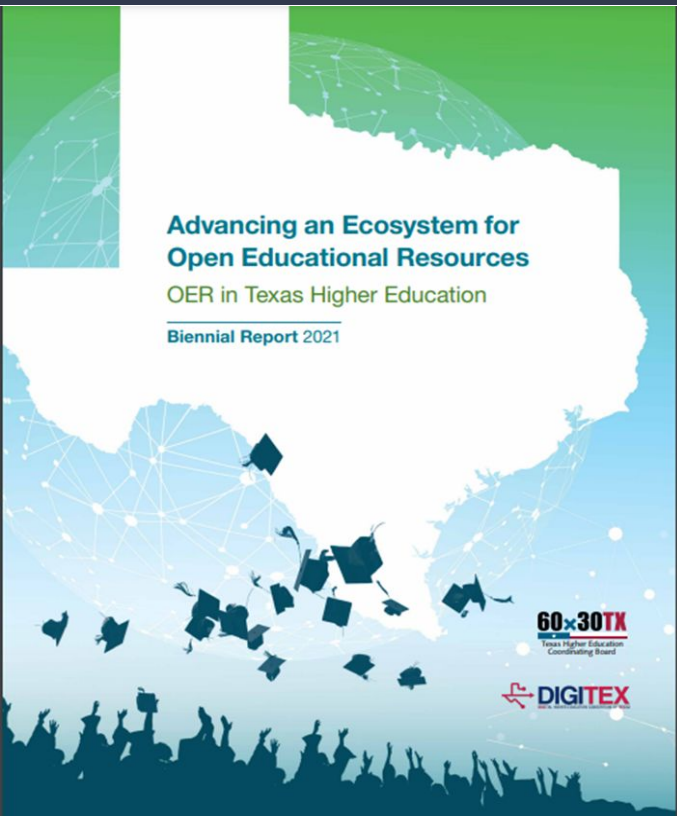
Framework of Cs:

- Content
- Community
- Credentials

Research

- OER Landscape Survey
- Digital Learning - User-Centered Design Research
- Digital Learning Faculty Survey
- OER Regional Needs Analysis
- OER Content Gap Analysis
 - Workforce Education Course Manual
 - Academic Course Guide Manual
- Digital Learning - Digital Design for Student Success Framework

Connecting Research to Practice



- Growth in commitment to OER across the state

- Increase in formal definitions, course markers, fully-OER based courses

- Decrease in faculty incentives
- Stagnant – Professional Learning

- Ecosystem of support – advanced OER practices



The University of Texas at Austin
School of Design and
Creative Technologies
College of Fine Arts



Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Grants


- Implementation and Development Grants
 - Appropriated
 - Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds
- Technology Assistance Partners
- Open Educational Resources Nursing Essentials Initiative

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Professional Learning

- OER Core Elements Academy
- OER Advanced Skills Academy
- Creator Communities
- Resource for the Resource Retreat
- Digital Learning Ecosystem Series
- OER Playbook Academy

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



openstax™

Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board





Creator Fest
OERTX Edition

Community Events

- [Open Texas Conference](#)
- Creator Fest: OERTX Edition
 - Chief Academic Officers/Instructional Officers Event
 - Peer Review and OER Toolkit
- Digital Learning Summit
 - OER Track
 - Webinars
 - Grantee Showcase

Welcome to OERTX Repository

Explore collections of open educational resources. Create OER. Collaborate with educators.

What are you looking for? 	Subject 	Education Level 	Course Inventorie 	Search
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

Fine tune your search with our [advanced search](#).

Over 140,000 users

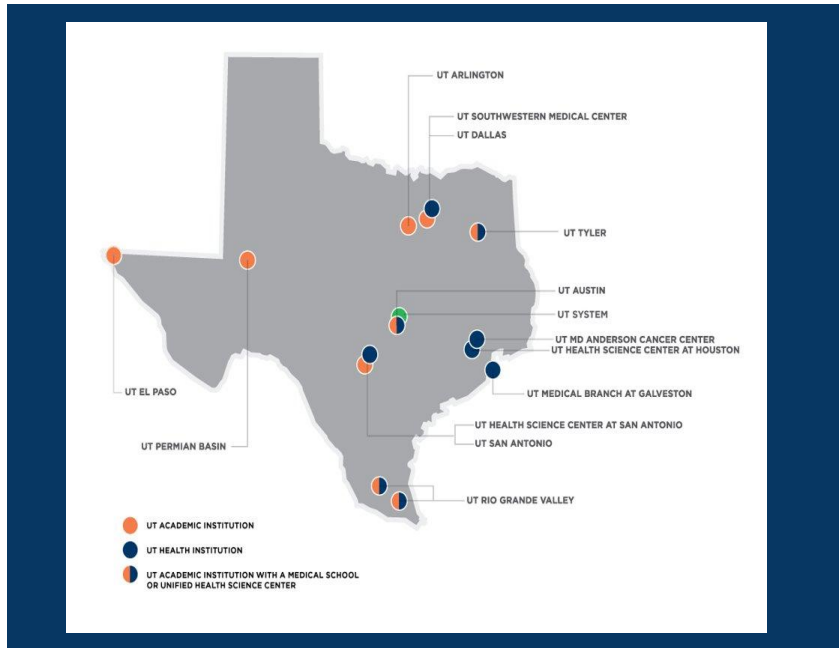
Across all states and continents

Over 10,000 added resources

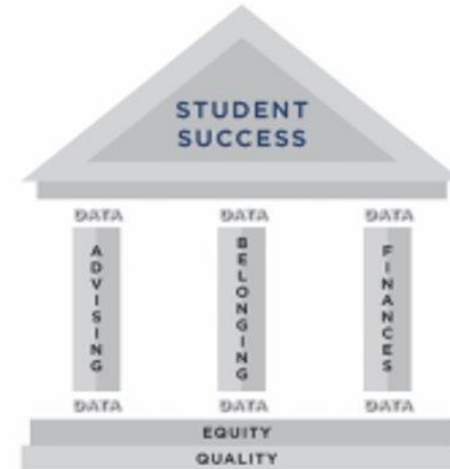
Over 2,000 authored resources via Open Author

<https://oertx.highered.texas.gov>

OER Engagement in the UT System: Student Success



Three Pillars of Student Success



OER Engagement in the UT System: Student Success

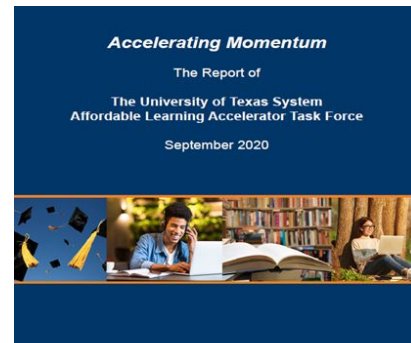
- **OER play a critical role in the UT System's equity-centered student success goals**
- Academic libraries have been the drivers for systemwide OER engagement.
- Leadership matters and leadership is found everywhere.

UT System Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force

Recommendations:

- The UT System should invest in OER through a commitment to a 3-year OER Momentum Strategy with 10 additional recommendations.
- *Momentum on OER* as the successor initiative

Libraries are still drivers with more faculty across the UT System understanding and using OER, and more institutional leaders understanding their value and impact.



Task Force convened from February 2019 to August 2020

- 25 members from academic and health institutions, including students.
- Report presented to Chancellor Milliken in September 2020.

UT System Momentum on OER

- Four Priorities:

- Implement best practices for course materials disclosure
- Incentivize faculty engagement
- Develop system-wide approach to working with publishers
- Identify shared metrics for impact and ROI

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► UT System Priority Areas



Texas Learn OER

An award-winning set of ten peer-reviewed openly licensed modules for faculty, staff, and administrators.



The screenshot shows the Texas Learn OER course landing page. On the left is a sidebar with a table of contents: 'Module 1: Introduction to this Course' (highlighted), 'Copyright & Attribution', 'Module 2: Understanding OER', 'Module 3: Why OER?', 'Module 4: Introduction to Open Licensing', 'Module 5: Finding & Evaluating OER' (highlighted with a checkmark), 'Module 6: Accessibility', 'Module 7: Creative Commons Licensing In-Depth', and 'Module 8: Attribution'. The main content area has a header image with the text 'TEXAS LEARN OER' and a red underline. Below this is the DIGITEX logo (Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas). A red banner at the bottom states: 'By the end of this course, you should be able to:' followed by a list: 'Define Open Educational Resources', 'Explain the rationale for OER adoption and use', and 'Explain the differences between the six currently available Creative Commons licenses'. A small circular icon with a pencil is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Adapted from *ACC Learn OER*
by Carrie Gits, Director,
Division of Digital Learning,
THECB

(former Head Librarian and Library
Services OER Team Leader at
Austin Community College)

Open Reuse | Remix |
Adaptation
Award Winners



Texas Learn OER
Digital Higher Education
Consortium of Texas

Open Texas Conference

Sept. 21-23, 2022

Co-organized by DigiTex, the Texas Digital Library, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

- Conference Theme: ***The Labor of Open Education***
- Rebecca Karoff, Conference Chair



Measuring Progress – Key Needs

- Measuring beyond affordability (equity, access, student success)
- National benchmarks & metrics
- Shared definitions & calculations (where applicable)
- Capturing collaborative experiences (e.g. faculty, libraries, instructional design)

What do you see as key drivers of the next frontier of OER for states, systems and institutions?

Questions?

(Additional resources on following slides)

Statewide Resources

OERTX - <https://oertx.highered.texas.gov>

Texas Learn OER - <https://bit.ly/digitexaslearnoer>

Open Texas Conference - <https://www.opentexas.org>

Texas OER Landscape Analysis 2019 - <https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/reports/reports-and-studies-non-fiscal/oer-texas/>

Texas OER Landscape Analysis 2021

<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/reports/reports-and-studies-non-fiscal/advancing-an-ecosystem-for-open-educational-resources-oer-in-texas-higher-education-2021/>

Best Practices in Texas Digital Higher Education: Creating and Adopting Open Educational Resources at Colleges and Universities Across the State - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CrMrj0g4lsSRYUM0HMI87RPVM2KESt6U/view?usp=sharing>

Texas OER Community Google Group - <https://groups.google.com/g/texas-oer-community-he>

Why Use OER? Infographic - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tMO4VexzL8IsiQA-V8ULYwkVppW-viR2/view?usp=sharing>

OER in Texas Infographic - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18aZD78MD3Nex4ukwOfc7mxRHmElbCrT2/view?usp=sharing>

Funding Examples

[THECB Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Course Development and Implementation Grant Program](#)

[THECB Open Educational Resources Grant Program](#)

[UTA CARES Grant Program](#)

[UTRGV Affordable Textbook Adoption Grant](#)

UT System Resources

Institutional Library Guides

[UT Arlington](#)

[UT Austin](#)

[UT Dallas](#)

[UT El Paso](#)

[UT Rio Grande Valley](#)

[UT San Antonio](#)

[UT Tyler](#)

[UT MD Anderson Cancer
Center](#)

Reports & Other Resources

[Momentum on OER \(website\)](#)

[Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force Report](#)

[World of OER Resource Guide](#)

[OER in Promotion & Tenure](#)

Other Resources for Faculty & Teachers

[EdTech Books](#)

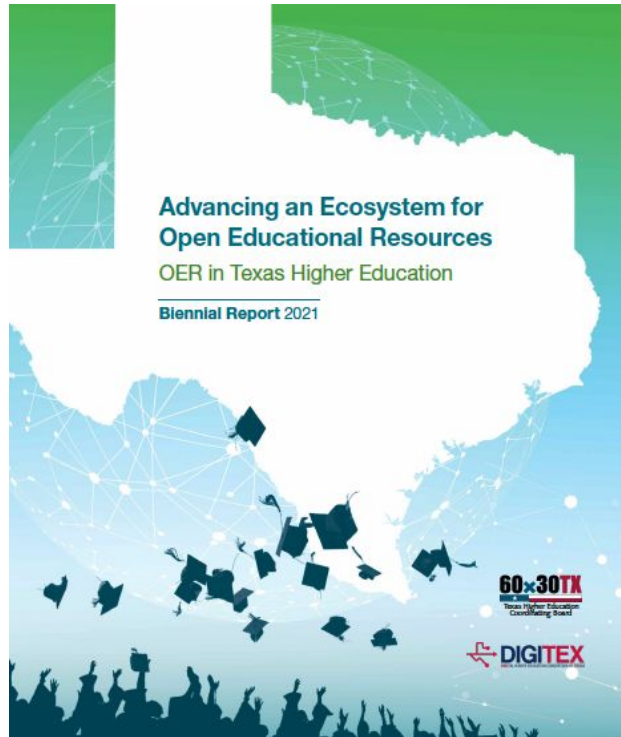
[LibreTexts](#)

[Finding OER](#)

[openstax](#)

[**Open and Free Pk-12 Resources**](#)

[**Texas Education Agency Available Materials**](#)



2021 Survey Conclusions & Implications:

- Nearly 70% of the state's institutions are advancing the use of OER for online and emergency remote learning.
- Those leading the way take a systems approach to OER policy and practice.
- Recommendations:
 - a state OER Playbook;
 - new OER professional development and grant opportunities as well as best practices case studies;
 - creation of OER curriculum development supports.

2021: 110 institutions participated

Best Practices Case Study

*Best Practices in Texas
Digital Higher Education*

**Creating and Adopting Open
Educational Resources at
Colleges and Universities
Across the State**

**Digital Higher Education
Consortium of Texas
August 2021**



OER Infographics: Why Use OER? OER in Texas

WHY USE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES?



OER require the ability to retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute.

OER can be full courses, textbooks, modules, learning objects, tests, or any other tools, materials, or techniques that support open access to knowledge.



Benefits for colleges



Increases student retention and completion by reducing costs

Average annual cost for books and supplies at Texas postsecondary institutions, 2021-22: \$1,234

Source: www.collegeforathwartsonline.org/collegesuccess

Benefits for Faculty

Assures freedom to localize content

Extends your academic profile

Provides more relevant and engaging materials for your student

Benefits for Students



Always available free (low cost for hard copies)

Easy to find and access, even before class starts

More customized and relevant



Increase progress and success!



Attribution: This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License by Digitex, a consortium supporting digital education at Texas public community colleges. Adapted from "Why Use OER" by NCCEL, Fall 2019, CC BY 4.0.



DIGITEX
DIGITAL HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM OF TEXAS

<https://digitex.org>

THE LONE STAR STATE IS OPEN!



OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN TEXAS



OERTX Repository



OERTX is a public digital library of open educational resources for higher education. It is a joint project of the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) and the [Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management](#).



Developed by the [University of Texas at Arlington Libraries](#)

Texas Toolkit for OER Course Markings (a living guide)

[Texas Learn OER](#) is a set of ten peer-reviewed, openly licensed, self-paced modules for faculty, staff, and administrators, who can earn a certificate upon completion of the training. Developed by Carrie Gits in collaboration with the [Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas](#).

Texas Learn OER



Texas OER Community for Higher Education Google Group

Organized and hosted by the [Texas Digital Library](#)

Open Texas

[Open Texas](#) is an annual conference organized by the [Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas](#), [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#), and [Texas Digital Library](#). The next conference will be held virtually Sept. 21-23, 2022.

#OERTX2021

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