



wwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board

FET BLENDED LEARNING

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES GUIDE



VERSION AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Version	Reviewed by	Approved by	Last Modification Date	Approval Date
1.0	Quality Team, TEL Team	Quality Team, TEL Team	December 2025	5 th December 2025



INTRODUCTION

Open Educational Resources (OER) — Overview

Definition & Principles

Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning, and research materials in any format and medium that either reside in the public domain or are released under an open license (e.g. Creative Commons), so that others can freely access, use, adapt, redistribute, and remix them. The key freedoms are: no-cost access, permission to reuse, adapt (remix), and share (redistribute) with few or no restrictions.

This openness allows educators to tailor content, avoid redundant effort, lower costs for learners, and foster collaborative development of materials.

Benefits & Challenges

Benefits of OER include cost savings for learners; flexibility for educators to customize materials; collaborative improvements; and increased access and equity. [library.etbi.ie+2EDUCAUSE Library+2](https://library.etbi.ie+2EDUCAUSE+Library+2) However, challenges exist: ensuring quality, aligning with curricular needs, sustainable funding or business models, licensing complexity, discoverability, and ensuring accessibility (e.g. for learners with disabilities). library.etbi.ie+2library.etbi.ie+2

The screenshot displays the ETBI FET Digital Library website. At the top, the ETBI logo (Education and Training Boards Ireland) is visible. Below it, a green banner reads 'ETBI FET Digital Library' and 'Take your learning further'. A navigation bar contains links: Home, About, Resources, Library Resource Guides, Core Skills, Library Skills, Subject Guides, Module Guides, Tutorials, and Practitioner Skills. The main content area features a sidebar with a list of topics: Introduction, Benefits and Challenges, Considerations, Open Licences, Evaluating OERs, Adopting OERs, and Tools for Creating OERs. The 'Benefits and Challenges' page is selected, showing a title 'Open Educational Resources: Benefits and Challenges' and a text block stating: 'OERs have a number of benefits compared to more traditional education resources.' A bullet point follows: 'No restrictions: in preparing a lesson plan or looking for reading material, teachers might find excellent material that they want to share. However, this might be behind a paywall or the material may be under copyright. These limitations will prevent sharing and use. OERs are made to share and'.

WWETB OER Guidance:

Programmes must incorporate suitable OERs identified during development. These resources should be academically robust, relevant to the discipline, accessible, appropriate to the learner level, and verified through peer review.

To facilitate consistent application of this guidance, WWETB provide this guidance on Selecting OERs. This guidance will provide structured support to programme developers and academic teams in sourcing, evaluating, and integrating suitable OERs into blended learning design and delivery.

Reference Examples:

[Using OERs – How-to Guide \(Una Europa\)](#)

[Open Educational Resources - Open Scholarly Resources - ETBI Digital Library at Education and Training Boards Ireland, ETBI](#)

Programme providers will be responsible for identifying and selecting OERs that align with the above criteria, ensuring that all chosen resources are pedagogically appropriate, accessible, and relevant to the intended learning outcomes.

Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Creative Commons

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are teaching and learning materials that are free to use and share. They can include things like lesson plans, videos, textbooks, quizzes, and presentations. OERs help teachers and learners by making good-quality resources available without cost, and they can be adapted to suit different subjects, levels, and learning needs.

Most OERs are shared under **Creative Commons (CC)** licences. These licences tell you what you are allowed to do with the resource — for example, whether you can change it, share it, or use it for commercial purposes. When using OERs, it is important to:

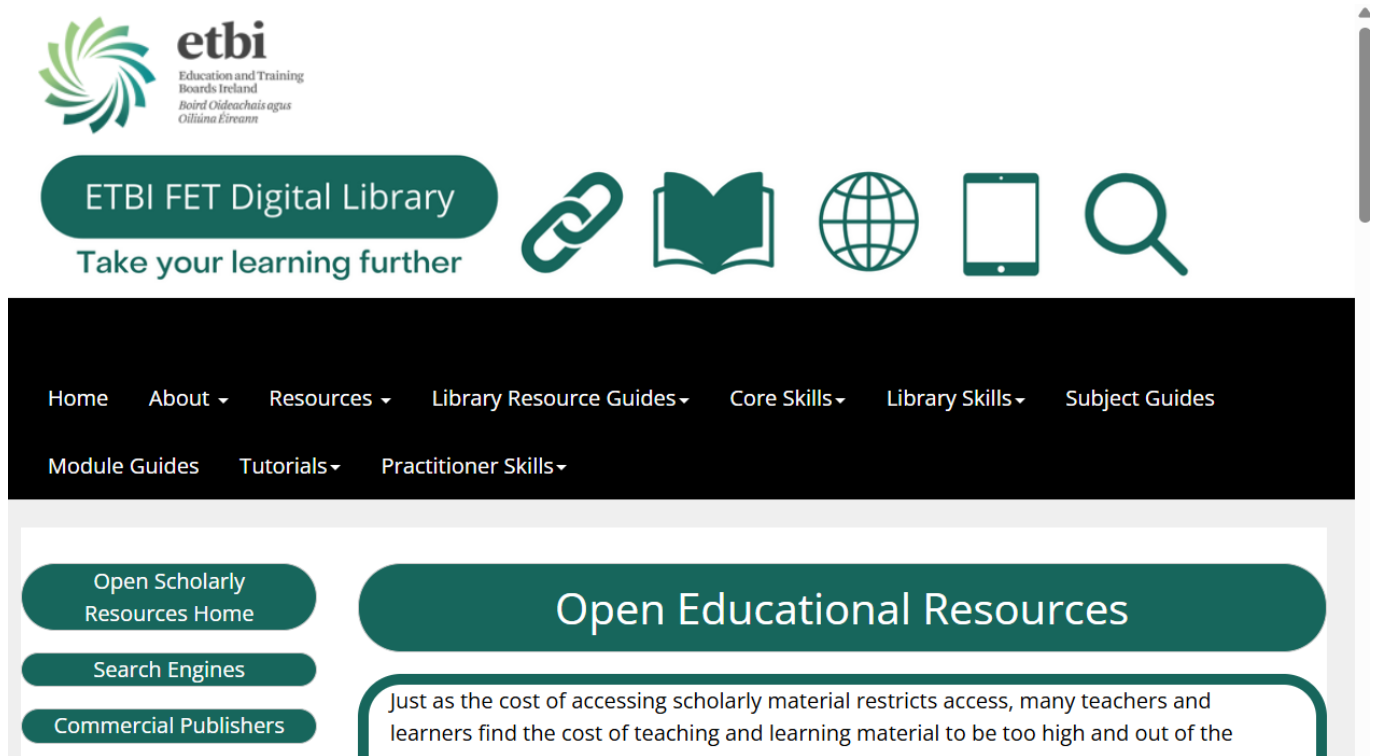
- **Give credit** to the creator (attribution)
- **Check the licence type** and follow its rules
- **Make sure the resource is accurate, up to date, and accessible**
- **Use materials that fit the level and purpose of the programme**

Details about attributes and correct use of OER's are available here: [Creative Commons - Copyright - ETBI Digital Library at Education and Training Boards Ireland, ETBI](#)

The screenshot shows the ETBI FET Digital Library website. The header includes the ETBI logo, the text 'ETBI FET Digital Library' and 'Take your learning further', and icons for a link, book, globe, mobile phone, and search. The navigation bar lists: Home, About, Resources, Library Resource Guides, Core Skills, Library Skills, Subject Guides, Module Guides, Tutorials, and Practitioner Skills. The main content area is titled 'Copyright: Open Licencing'. On the left, a sidebar lists: Introduction, What is Copyright?, Copyright Infringements, Exceptions and Fair Dealing, Copyright and Education, and Copyright and Moodle. The main text area states: 'In recent years, there has been a move towards "open", defined as (from [Open Definition](#)): Open means anyone can freely access, use, modify, and share for any purpose (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness). Open is generally a good thing. It:'

LEVERAGING ETBI'S OER INITIATIVE

ETBI's OER Platform



ETBI supports a unified **FET Digital Library**, which includes a dedicated **OER section**. library.etbi.ie+1

On the ETBI OER pages you can find:

- A definition and context for OER in the ETB / FET sector library.etbi.ie+1
- Tools and guidance for creating OER library.etbi.ie
- Advice on evaluating and selecting OER library.etbi.ie
- Guidance on adopting, adapting, and sharing OER library.etbi.ie
- Accessibility best practices for OER library.etbi.ie
- Links to external OER repositories and resources library.etbi.ie

Through the ETBI OER hub, staff have access to a centrally curated, open library of educational content, as well as support and guidelines on OER practices.

How WWETB Can Use & Benefit from ETBI OER

1. Access & Reuse

Educators and curriculum developers in WWETB can draw on the ETBI OER repository to find open textbooks, lesson plans, media, modules, assessment items, and more — reducing duplication of work and costs associated with proprietary resources.

2. Adaptation for Local Context

Because OER materials are openly licensed, WWETB staff can adapt and localise them (e.g. for regional industry needs, Irish context, language needs) using the tools and guidelines provided on the ETBI platform.

3. Creation & Contribution

WWETB can author its own open resources and contribute them back to the ETBI OER system. That increases the shared pool of resources across ETBs. The ETBI guidance helps with issues of licensing, metadata, and standards to ensure consistency and usability.

4. Professional Development & Capacity Building

Through the ETBI OER pages, WWETB staff can access training, guidelines, and support in OER development, evaluation, and accessibility practices, thus building institutional capacity in open education.

5. Equity & Learner Benefit

Incorporating OER into WWETB programmes helps reduce costs for learners and promotes equity of access. It also enables continuity and updating of materials without dependence on expensive, restrictive texts.

6. Sustainability & Collaboration

By collaborating across the ETB network, WWETB helps to spread maintenance burdens, share good practices, and build a sustainable open resource ecosystem in the FET sector in Ireland.

Summary

In summary, Open Educational Resources represent a powerful approach for more equitable, flexible, and collaborative education. ETBI's OER hub provides a structured platform and roadmap for FET providers to adopt, adapt, and contribute open materials. WWETB stands to gain by leveraging this shared infrastructure: reducing costs, enhancing resource quality, building staff capacity, and offering more responsive, accessible learning experiences.