

# OER Policy of the University of Bremen

## 1. Preamble

As part of their teaching activities, teaching staff at the University of Bremen produce valuable, creative, and innovative materials for their classes, practical sessions, and examinations. Many of these educational materials, whether they are texts, images, videos, audio recordings, or other materials, are suitable for further use by other teachers and students. Such materials can be published under open licenses. They are then referred to as Open Educational Resources (OER).

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OER have the following advantages over materials that are not freely licensed:

- they are available free of charge
- they can be further developed, improved, and brought up to date by the creators or by other colleagues
- they promote exchange and networking among teachers
- they save time – digital materials that are complex to create do not have to be redeveloped
- the contributions of the University of Bremen and the individual lecturers are clearly attributed and visible to the outside world

### The Aim of Promoting OER

The University of Bremen has set itself the goal of anchoring the provision of open educational materials – OER – in the university culture. By supporting free access to high-quality teaching and learning materials, the University of Bremen aims to promote the openness of education. As a public institution, the University thus fulfils its social responsibility. This policy provides a basis for this. In addition to the Open Access Policy, which promotes open access to the results of scientific work, the University is thus providing further impetus for openness in science – for Open Science.

The OER policy is a building block of the following strategies and objectives:

- shaping digitalization in line with the Bremen State Science Plan 2025
- the "Shaping digitalization" goal of the university's 2018-2028 strategy
- the implementation of the UNESCO recommendation on OER from 2019
- the achievement of the development goal "Quality Education" (SDG 4) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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Open Educational Resources  
of the University of Bremen

## 2. Declaration of the University of Bremen

The University of Bremen recommends the use and creation of open educational resources (OER) in all suitable areas of study and teaching. It welcomes it when teaching staff and other employees:

- make educational materials created by them, which are suitable for further use as OER, openly available for teaching and learning in compliance with copyright law,
- use openly available teaching and learning materials in their teaching,
- when possible, use other free content such as open access publications or open source software in teaching.

## 3. Support and Responsibility

Educators who would like to publish materials as OER can obtain advice and support from the Center for Multimedia in Teaching (ZMML), the Bremen State and University Library (SuUB), and the Higher Educations Didactics Office (Administrative Unit 13 – Teaching and Studies). Further information and contact details can be found on the [Open Educational Resources website](#).

As with scientific publications, the authors of the materials are responsible for the quality assurance of the media published as OER. This includes compliance with license and copyright regulations, technical standards, and accessibility. They are also responsible for the quality of the content and didactic concepts, compliance with academic standards, and the alignment with University of Bremen's Mission Statement. If the teaching materials contain original research results or research data, it must be clarified whether this conflicts with publication as OER.



## 4. Recommendations

### → Licensing

The University of Bremen recommends using the Creative Commons CC licenses for licensing and publishing open educational media under the current version of one of the following Creative Commons license types. The licenses recommended here are considered open licenses and represent the lowest barriers for the reuse of materials. It is advisable to use the corresponding icon of the Creative Commons license.



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### → Use of the OER Twillo Portal for Publication

The University of Bremen recommends publishing OER in the "Twillo" portal – the Lower Saxony "Portal for OER in Higher Education." Employees of the University of Bremen have access through DFN for single sign-on to upload their materials, add the metadata and descriptions, and publish them.

### → Naming of the University of Bremen in Metadata

Analogous to scientific publications, the institutional affiliation (University of Bremen) should also be noted in the metadata of the OER repository (Twillo) for educational materials created in connection with the University of Bremen.

### → Use of Open Formats

To enable the reusability of open educational materials, they should be published in open digital formats (e.g., txt, odt). When creating such materials, open-source software should be prioritized. Formats that depend on proprietary software for editing should be avoided as much as possible.