**Selecting an OER Repository**

**Goal:** Participating in this activity will help you to develop a considered approach to the sharing of the teaching resources you develop and a deeper understanding of why people may choose repositories to contribute to the development of a broader community of educators.

**Example Repositories**:

* OER Commons: https://www.oercommons.org/
* Share My Lesson: <https://sharemylesson.com/>
* TeachBC: <http://teachbc.bctf.ca/>

**Instructions for Use**:

*Gather in groups of 3 for this activity.*

1. Each group member selects a repository to evaluate - one from the list above or one you are familiar with.
2. Select the criteria that you want to use to evaluate the repository you’ve selected.
3. What did you learn? Why would you choose this repository for sharing your work? Why would you not choose it?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Why is this Important?** | **Criteria Met: How?** | **Criteria Not Met: Why?** |
| **Audience** | Consider the target audience for your work. For example - is the repository targeted to elementary or secondary teachers? |  |  |
| **Access** | Ensure your goals for sharing align with the goals and aims of the repository. If **your goal** is to openly share your resources with no expectation of financial exchange AND the repository charges users for downloads, it may not be the right choice for you. |  |  |
| **Subject coverage** | Knowing the target subject areas for a particular repository can help determine whether your content with be filling a gap or contributing to a glut in an area. Filling gaps is helpful. |  |  |
| **Usability** | Greater likelihood of use when contributions can be made in a variety of ways (document formats, uploads, direct entry online, etc.). |  |  |
| **Licensing** | Flexibility of the license to honor the intent of all creators involved in the contribution. Lesson plan content often has multiple components - some that is your own work and some that is not. |  |  |
| **Re-use** | Ability to adapt a lesson plan or resource is important for re-use. Files that can be edited / modified when downloaded or media sources that can be directly linked to another hosting service (ie YouTube) are examples. |  |  |
| **Community** | Feedback from a user community (via ratings, etc.) can help new users choose relevant and tested content AND help improve resources and highlight their usefulness. |  |  |
| **Diversity** | Multiple perspectives represented in the content contributed - you are more likely to find culturally & socially relevant material. |  |  |

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