

**Special Session: OER'19** 

### **Title**

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Acronym
OER'19

### **Overview**

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials, delivered in any media, that are under public domain or licensed openly, allowing them to be used or adapted by third parties.

OER had been developed for more than 15 years in the education field, based on the principles of the open movement and inspired by free software. International institutions such as UNESCO or the European Union are making a major effort to develop this concept, which involves not only a new type of resource, but a model of personal, institutional and governmental involvement. OER are seen as an opportunity for teacher innovation through their empowerment as co-creators, who are offered the opportunity to reuse and adapt existing resources. From a practical point of view, the concept of OER is being favored by the development of new applications and solutions that promote the user's adoption: open formats, open source applications, open licenses such as Creative Commons, social networks, repositories, etc.

OER Special Session seeks to bring together OER researchers, activists, teachers and stakeholders, to present theoretical, methodological, technical or empirical research on OER and related issues. We seek, in particular, a look at OER current main challenges.

## **Topics**

- Building the capacity of users to find, re-use, create and share OER:
  - o Building awareness and skills to use OER
  - o Sharing OER
  - o Finding OER
- Language and cultural issues:
  - o Gender-sensitive, culturally and linguistically relevant OER
  - Development and adaptation of culturally-sensitive and linguistically accurate OER
  - o Collaborative development and community engagement
  - Strategies for overcoming cultural barriers
- Ensuring inclusive and equitable access to quality OER:

- Accessible inclusive OER use and development
- Quality assurance mechanisms for OER
- Developing sustainability models:
  - o Strategic opportunities to governments and institutions
  - o Value added models
  - Revenues and sustainability aspects
  - o Policies, incentives, and recognition practices
- Developing supportive policy environments:
  - o Policies for publicly funded educational resources
  - o Sustainable financing models
  - OER and development priorities
  - o Links between OER policies and other open education policies

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