### Why Write a Book?
- Absence of perfect resource
- No cohesive/single resource
- Lack of a level-appropriate resource
- Adaptation of existing open sources

### Why Choose an OER?
- Cost
- Immediate Use
- Digital
- Living Document
- Flexible
- Adaptable
- Transferable
- Needs-based
- Breadth
- Reach
- Revisable
- ESL-friendly
- Multi-modal
- Multi-lingual
- Author Recognition
- No Commercial Publishers

### Before You Write an OER
- **Time**
  - Plan for extra time outside work
- **Support**
  - Center for Teaching
  - Librarians and colleagues
  - Grants
- **Platform**
  - Where will you host your book?
  - Most common: Pressbooks
- **License**
  - How open will your resource be?
- **Accessibility**
  - Language
  - Visuals

### Accessibility Considerations
- Image descriptions for every photo, graph, visual representation
- Colors/Contrast
- Captions on videos
- Audio descriptions
- Using section headers
- Using named hyperlinks rather than URLs

### Accessibility Links
- Accessibility cheat sheets specific to Microsoft Word
- List of useful accessibility cheat sheets
  - [http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/](http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/)
- Color analyzer
  - [https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/](https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/)
Developing an Open-Access Textbook: International Undergraduate Research Skills

How Did I Write an OER?

- The project: to create an open-access textbook or an open educational resource (OER)
  - License: [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org)
- Available OERs
  - Choosing and Using Sources (OSU)
  - The Information Literacy Users Guide (SUNY)

Project Goals

- Gap in resources
  - International
  - Undergraduate
  - Research Skills

From Brainstorm to Text

- Do not work in a vacuum!
- Utilized support
  - Librarians
  - Colleagues
  - Grant (Research Sprints)
- Collaborated to outline text
- Organized and enhanced information
- Learned about licenses

Chapter Format

- Preview vocabulary and concepts
- Learning objectives
- Introduction
- Body and activities

How to Use Others’ Work

- Copyright/CC/Fair Use
  - Creative Commons
- Keeping a list of borrowed materials for credit and record keeping
- Pictures, videos, text
  - Asking permission to use videos, video content, text
  - Using Pixabay, Unsplash, Creative Commons, Wikimedia Commons, and Burst for open access pictures.

Sustainability

- Check in every two years
- Check all links and videos
- Review and incorporate teacher/student input
- Revise as necessary

References


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