

National Policy on Open Educational Resources in Higher Education
(Validated on September 12, 2017)



National Policy on Open Educational Resources for Higher Education



September, 2017

Prepared under the auspices of the
National Universities Commission

PREFACE TO THE NATIONAL POLICY ON OER (OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES) FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

Open Educational Resources (OER) describes educational materials such as curriculum maps, course materials, textbooks, streaming videos, multimedia applications, podcast, and any other material that have been designed for use in teaching and learning that are openly available for use by educators and students, without the need to pay royalties or licence fees. The derivable benefits of OER to Higher Education in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Indeed, the fact that OER can be retained, reused, revised, remixed, and redistributed makes it a veritable tool for sustainable educational development. Since the term, OER was coined by UNESCO in July 2002, preceding the First World OER Congress, which held in June, 2012 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France, the OER movement has gathered considerable momentum. In Africa, the consultative discussion on OER began in the Republic of Mauritius, in March 2017, where the participation of stakeholders' in Higher Education, including the delegation from Nigeria was well acknowledged. Participants unanimously agreed to strengthen the development of a supportive environment that would fast track the adoption and use of OER in Africa. Nigeria strategically affirmed its stand to move away from mere intentions to concrete action with the constitution of the National Steering Committee on OER with the approval of the Honourable Minister of Education. This OER Policy for Higher Education in Nigeria is therefore a clear evidence of the concrete action taken by the Government and people of Nigeria to promote OER in Nigeria, with a view to ensure among others, that Higher Education in Nigeria features prominently on OER World Map.

This National Policy on OER in Higher Education in Nigeria, provides guidelines for the creation and use of OER to increase access and support quality teaching, learning and research in the Nigerian Higher Education system. The OER Policy covers the scope goals, teaching and learning, capacity building, OER material development, quality assurance, infrastructure and connectivity, implementation strategy, institutional arrangements, and intellectual property rights and licences. On behalf of the President and Commander in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I commend the efforts of Members of the National Steering Committee on OER, the ICDE Chair in OER/Commonwealth of Learning (COL) appointed Consultant the Advisors, the Secretariat, and all Stakeholders in the Higher Education Sub-sector for their quality contributions.

Mallam Adamu Adamu
Honourable Minister for Education
Federal Republic of Nigeria

1.0 Scope of the Policy

1.1. This Policy provides guidelines for the creation and use of open educational resources (hereinafter referred to as OER) to increase access to and support quality teaching, learning and research incorporating entrepreneurial skills and employability competencies in the Nigerian

Higher Education System. In doing so, the Policy seeks to strengthen commitment to OER by Higher Education Institutions and all concerned stakeholders. For the purposes of this Policy, higher education institutions shall include universities, polytechnics, monotechnics, colleges of education, innovation centres and research institutes as well as other institutions recognised under this category by the National Policy on Education.

1.2. The Policy shall be applied to all publicly-funded higher education teaching and learning materials, developed by higher education institutions in Nigeria, as well as to various Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs). Educational/Research Institutions and autonomous bodies developing teaching and learning materials or any educational resource using public funds including donor-provided funds shall be guided by this Policy and shall undertake appropriate steps to adopt OER. Also, any university, institution or organisation which develops any educational resource using its own funds are encouraged to apply the Policy. However, in all cases, the release of works under an open licence will follow the Nigerian Copyright Act, CAP C28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

1.3. Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. Open licensing is built within the existing framework of intellectual property rights as defined by relevant International Conventions and respects the authorship of the work.

1.4. Open Educational Resources (OER) are technology-enabled, open provision of educational resources for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for non-commercial purposes. Materials that constitute OER include curriculum maps, course materials, textbooks, streaming videos, pictorial materials, multimedia applications, podcast, and any other materials that have been designed for use in teaching and learning environment.

2.0 Goals of the Policy

2.1. provide a comprehensive framework for the use of OER to enhance access to and create qualitative educational resources that support quality teaching and learning, engender entrepreneurial skills and employability competencies in Nigerian higher education

2.2. strengthen commitment to OER by all concerned stakeholders in higher education in Nigeria;

2.3. improve access to quality learning content developed with public funds by releasing them under a suitable open licence;

2.4. reduce barriers to education, including access, cost, language and format;

2.5. engender free access to educational materials that can be re-used and repurposed in different formats;

2.6. stimulate a healthy academic culture of knowledge sharing;

- 2.7. ensure equity in access to knowledge, thus expanding outreach to disadvantaged groups and marginalised communities;
- 2.8. democratise inclusive education for learners with varying abilities;
- 2.9. make available learning objects appropriate to local languages and cultural environment;
- 2.10. encourage active collaboration and partnership for the creation and adoption of OER nationally across institutions of higher learning and related organisations;
- 2.11. establish a system and procedure which encourage the development, accessing and adapting quality OER;
- 2.12. entrench the guidelines of Core Curriculum Minimal Academic Standards (CCMAS) for the judicious selection and adaptation of and developing OER;
- 2.13. Stimulate creativity, critical thinking, communication, team work and innovation in developing forms and contents of OER; and
- 2.14. actively motivate research and scholarship on various aspects of OER.

Pursuant to the above goals:

- i. Higher Education regulatory agencies and all Higher Education Institutions in Nigeria shall be committed to the philosophy of OER in raising awareness, building capacity and fostering positive attitudes in educators, learners and researchers, regarding the development and use of OER, with a view to enhancing quality and equity in education;
- ii. being educational resources that are freely and openly available, OER shall be used by educators and learners in the production of teaching and learning materials to meet institutional and national curriculum requirements;
- iii. Government shall be committed to the continuous advocacy and capacity building of educators, researchers, academic staff, teachers, ICT personnel involved in OER, various communities and stakeholders in the design, development, access, use and dissemination of information, knowledge and current global status of OER;
- iv. Educators, teachers, learners, researchers and institutions shall be encouraged to pool and share resources in order to develop OER;

- v. Regulatory agencies shall encourage institutions to contextualise the processes for the development of materials in different ways to reward collaborative activity and encourage the production of new materials; and
- vi. the existing enabling environments for ICT - including infrastructure, Internet connectivity and emerging technologies such as mobile technology - shall be fully contextualised to facilitate access to and redistribution of openly licensed teaching, learning and research resources.
- vii. The development of OER in all institutions shall foster creativity, critical thinking and innovation, entrepreneurial skills, employability competencies.
- viii. The definition of public documents shall be deemed to include community heritages such as language data, folklores, traditional music, festivals, as resources. These should be available as OER in institutional repositories and the national repository

3.0 Teaching and Learning

3.1. Educators, teachers, learners and researchers shall be encouraged to harness the potentials of OER to improve learning outcomes.

3.2. The availability of OER shall require teachers to adopt new and creative methods of teaching and learning to facilitate more interactive learning processes.

3.3. To facilitate the updating of curricula with the most recent developments in a given field, academic staff shall be encouraged to integrate OER and contextualise these for teaching, learning and research as appropriate.

3.4. Students shall be oriented towards the appropriate use of OER and guided to explore additional resources beyond their curriculum to develop self-directed learning abilities.

3.5 . In the context of creativity, critical thinking and innovation, students shall be encouraged to become content producers rather than solely content consumers.

3.6 . Appropriate care shall be taken to develop accessible OERs for learners with special needs.

4.0 Capacity Building

4.1. Awareness-raising, capacity-building and networking/sharing activities of all stakeholders, shall be encouraged for the development of a full range of competencies required for the effective use of OER. These activities shall aim at fostering a shared vision for open educational practices, which shall be aligned with the government's educational vision and mission.

4.2. Training programmes on copyright and OER shall be supported through appropriate schemes and institutions shall conduct such programmes on a regular basis.

4.3. Institutions shall adopt copyright policies and OER policies to clarify the rights and responsibilities of academics and researchers to use, develop and share educational materials with open licenses.

4.4. Individuals developing quality OER shall be appropriately acknowledged, and institutions shall be persuaded to institute their own mechanisms for rewarding and acknowledging champions supporting OER integration into teaching and learning.

4.5. A national scheme that will acknowledge contributions to OER shall be instituted, to reward collaboration and sharing as well as adoption of existing OER.

5.0 OER Material Development

5.1. As educational resources that are freely and openly available, OER shall be used by academics, students and researchers in the production of teaching, learning and research materials, in line with the institutional and national curriculum requirements.

5.2. Regulatory agencies shall provide support to institutions (individually or collectively) to produce and share high-quality educational resources to update and upgrade curricula and teaching materials.

5.3. OER produced by faculty members shall be seen as intellectual products that count towards professional advancement.

5.4. Efforts shall be made to contextualise and customise the creation of OER in order to promote local content and foreground creativity and innovation.

5.5. Deliberate steps shall be taken to promote the visibility of OER developed by students.

6.0 Quality Assurance

6.1. Available guidelines for assuring the quality of OER shall be appropriately contextualised, and a mechanism for review and approval (including peer review and user ratings) of OER shall be developed by all Institutions.

6.2. The review of OER shall include quality content, pedagogy, media/presentation and creativity.

6.3. Regulatory agencies shall encourage and acknowledge the appropriate adaptation of OER in its criteria for programme accreditation.

7.0 Infrastructure and Connectivity

7.1. A National Repository of Higher Education OER, shall be maintained by the National Universities Commission.

7.2. The requisite environment for ICT, including infrastructure, Internet connectivity and emerging technologies such as mobile technology, shall be fully integrated to facilitate access to and redistribution of openly licensed teaching, learning and research resources.

7.3. Broadband access in Higher Education Institutions shall be strengthened and supported by relevant agencies.

7.4. Educational Institutions shall set up their own repositories of OER.

7.5. All OER shall be released in open, non-proprietary formats.

7.6. In the event that a proprietary software/format is used, the source file in its final version along with the relevant application programme interfaces shall be made available to facilitate reuse.

7.7. Guidelines for the development of digital content and repositories with World Wide Web Consortium compliance shall be established.

7.8. Higher Education Institutions shall collaborate and partner in the provision of infrastructure and connectivity for improved access

8.0 Implementation Strategy

8.1. A Standing Committee at each regulatory agency shall be responsible for the implementation of the OER Policy in each of the different clusters of higher education institutions.

8.2. The standing committee shall include eminent educationists, Heads of Institutions, Librarians, Directors of ICT, Directors of Open Distance and e Learning Centres, media experts, legal experts and other relevant stakeholders. The committee shall develop norms, specifications, guidelines, monitoring and evaluation criteria and any other related best practices, to guide the implementation of the OER Policy.

8.3. The Standing Committee may meet as and when needed. However, it should meet at least once a year to review progress and adjust to new circumstances that may arise.

8.4. Each regulatory agency shall be the nodal agency for undertaking capacity building and research on OER in its cluster of higher education Institutions.

8.5. The OER Policy shall be reviewed every five years, effective from the date of implementation.

8.6. Educational Institution shall be encouraged to develop ICT policy to drive OER efficiently and effectively.

9.0 Institutional Arrangements

9.1. All higher education institutions shall be encouraged to develop their own institutional OER Policy aligned with the national OER Policy.

9.2. All institutions shall create institutional repositories to share teaching, learning and research materials on the Web.

9.3. In addition to encouraging Faculty members to develop complete textbooks and courses using multiple media, institutions shall facilitate the reuse, revision and remixing of existing openly licensed materials in their teaching.

9.4. Institutions shall be encouraged to develop contextualized and customized materials reflecting the peculiarities of their localities.

10.0 Intellectual Property Rights and Licenses

10.1. All teaching, learning and research materials, developed with public funds and other sources of funding, including donor agencies and development partners, shall be released with an appropriate open licence and made available online in editable digital formats.

10.2. Teaching, research and learning resources shall be openly licensed when the copyright of the work is held by publicly funded institutions.

10.3. Teaching, learning and research resources shall be openly licensed when created by a grantee or contractor receiving public funds.

10.4. The preferred open licenses are the most current versions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY), Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BYSA), Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial (CC BY-NC) and Creative Commons-Non Commercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) licenses.







10.5. Institutions shall reserve the right to license their copyrighted work using the most current version of the Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivatives (CC BYND) or Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC BYNC-ND) licenses under the following conditions:

- i. Where any derivative would affect the reputation of the agency or the integrity and authenticity of the work (CC BY-ND is suggested).
- ii. Where the derivative or otherwise commercial circulation of the work would adversely affect the agency's operation and economic viability (CC BYNC-ND is suggested).

10.6. Exceptions: The OER Policy shall not apply to any work if releasing the work under an open license would:

- be contrary to legislation, court order or specific government Policy; constitute a breach of contract or lead to disclosure of a trade secret; and/or
- prevent the patenting of an invention.

10.7 Creative Commons Licences

 <p>Attribution (CC BY)</p>	<p>This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered.</p>
 <p>Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA)</p>	<p>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms. This license is often compared to “copyleft” free and open source software licenses. All new works based on your works will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use.</p>
 <p>Attribution-NoDerivs (CC BY-ND)</p>	<p>This license allows for redistribution, commercial and non-commercial, as long as it is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to you.</p>
 <p>Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC)</p>	<p>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be noncommercial, they don’t have to license their derivative works on the same terms.</p>
 <p>Attribution-NonCommercialShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA)</p>	<p>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.</p>
 <p>Attribution-NonCommercialNoDerivs (CC BY-NCND)</p>	<p>This license is the most restrictive of our six main licenses, only allowing others to download your works and share them with others as long as they credit you, but they can’t change them in any way or use them commercially (Creativecommons.org)</p>

Adapted from Creative Commons.¹

11.0 Scope, Liability and Disclaimer

11.1. This policy applies to all Regulatory agencies and Higher Education Institutions. It also applies to all types of teaching and learning materials released in physical or electronic format by individual or group of staff in the various higher education institutions or related agencies and organisations.

11.2. The policy does not apply to institution-related documents, such as policies, trademarks, logo, patents, and personal information.

11.3. The license declaration on the OER shall follow the following format: © Year of Publication, the higher education institution.

11.4. Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons (specify the Creative Commons license to be used]. To view a copy of this license, visit the specific license on creativecommons.org)

11.5. Each regulatory agency and higher education institution shall reserve the copyright of the organisation or institutional logo used in all of its materials, and does not permit use of its logo without written permission for derivatives of its works.

11.6. Every learning object or resource in the OER repository in Nigeria shall carry a disclaimer to specifically indicate that the material is for educational purposes only and that the regulatory agency or higher education institution absolves itself of any misuse of the materials or their content. OER materials created and published by staff of the regulatory agencies and higher education institutions do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the agency or the higher education institution.

11.7. The disclaimer will have the following format:

The publication is released for educational purposes, and all information provided are in 'as is' basis. Although the author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication was correct at press time, the author and publisher do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause. All the views expressed in the publication are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the regulatory agency or higher education institution. All products and services mentioned are owned by their respective copyright holders, and mere presentation in the publication does not mean endorsement by the regulatory agency or of higher education institutions.

Derivatives of this work are not authorised to use logo of the higher education institution

¹ <http://creativecommons.org/licenses>

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (NSC OER)

1. Professor Abubakar A. Rasheed, mni MFR, FNAL, Executive- Chairman/Convener
Secretary, National Universities Commission
 2. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education - Member
 3. Director, Tertiary, Federal Ministry of Education - Member
 4. Executive Secretary, NBTE - Member
 5. Executive Secretary, NTI - Member
 6. Vice-Chancellor, NOUN - Member
 7. Secretary-General, CVC - Member
 8. Director, Research, Innovation & IT, NUC - Member
 9. Director, Open & Distance Education, NUC - Member
 10. Prof. Olu Obafemi, President, National Academy of Letters - Member
(NAL)
 11. Ambassador Mariam Y. Katagum, Nigeria's Permanent- Member
Delegate
to UNESCO
 12. Professor Peter A. Okebukola, OFR Former Executive- Member
Secretary,
NUC
 13. Professor (Emeritus) Olugbemi Jegede, Former Vice- - Advisor
Chancellor, NOUN
 14. Dr. Jane-Frances Agbu, Associate Professor of Clinical - Co-opted Member &
Psychology and ICDE Chair in NOUN COL-Appointed
Consultant
 15. Mr. Chris J. Maiyaki, Director, Directorate of the -Member/ Secretary
Executive Secretary's Office, NUC
- Secretariat -
1. Mr. Cletus A. Lanshima - NUC
 2. Mr. Joe Nte Bisong - NUC
 3. Barr. Paschal A. Eruaga - NUC