

# OPEN ED UPDATES

KBOR Statewide OER Steering Committee Newsletter



[https://www.kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/open-educational-resources](https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/open-educational-resources)



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## OER Use Increasing In K-12 Classrooms

By Tim Miller, Labette Community College

The American Historical Association, one of the main professional groups for historians, recently released a study examining how middle school and high school teachers go about preparing for and teaching classes. The study found that teachers are overwhelmingly moving away from traditional textbooks in favor of a variety of online resources, including OER materials.

*American Lesson Plan: Teaching US History in Secondary Schools* is the result of a two-year study that surveyed over 3,000 middle and high school teachers, conducted longer interviews with over 200 teachers and administrators, and examined thousands of pages of instructional material.

One of the study's main conclusions was that the teachers themselves had a considerable amount of discretion in terms of what resources they used in class. A second conclusion, then, was that teachers are now using a broad variety of online resources, rather than relying on a single textbook for their classes. 32% of teachers said they do not use a textbook at all, a number that is higher among newer teachers.

## UPCOMING KS OER EVENTS

OER annual report to SCOCAO  
20 November 2024 at KSU

AI & OER webinar  
February 2025

While some of the online resources teachers use are from for-profit companies, other resources are either completely open for teachers to use and change, or are close to that. One of the most popular sets of resources came from federal institutions such as the National Archives, Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and the National Park Service. There were also free resources from Stanford and the University of Houston.

The report, and information about the report, is available for free at <https://www.historians.org/teaching-learning/k-12-education/american-lesson-plan/>



## State & Regional OER Updates

Creative Commons is launching new course offerings. One new course offered in January 2025 in partnership with [Library Juice Academy](#) will be [Creative Commons Licenses from Concepts to Practice](#). Library Juice Academy is a professional development provider for librarians worldwide. This course does not result in a CC Certificate, and it is not as comprehensive as the Certificate courses, but it may be a good option for people who are looking for a basic introduction at a lower price-point. Additionally, CC has officially launched the [TAROCH Coalition for Open Access to Cultural Heritage](#).

Join the Kansas OER Google Group to share information and get assistance with OER questions: <https://groups.google.com/g/kansas-oer>.

## Mathematics OER at KCKCC

Dagney Velazquez, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Kansas City Kansas Community College, started using OER 10 years ago. She said that after looking at several resources, she decided on Openstax books for college algebra, trigonometry, and non-engineering calculus. With the system shift to Math Pathways, she has decided to start using their Contemporary Math book next semester. Velazquez says, “The books are well written and edited, they have both an online version and a pdf version that people can download for offline viewing, and instructor resources such as powerpoint slides, solution manuals, and download cartridges to integrate with an LMS. My students love that they are free, and for the few students who still prefer a hardback book, those are available for a much lower cost than other publishers’ books.” It is common in mathematics to use a homework system paired with the course textbooks. Velazquez has used an OER homework platform, myopenmath.com. She says, “It’s easy to use, integrates seamlessly with our LMS, and instructors from other colleges have made their course content available so that I don’t have to create anything from scratch. Almost all of the Openstax books have at least one course template available. I can customize them for my own class, and several of them include video tutorials. I find the options available competitive with Pearson’s MyMathLab. Again, it’s 100% free, and since it’s integrated with our LMS, students don’t have to go to another website to log in.”