

# The Path of Open Education Resource Sharing in the Context of Open University



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**Abstract:** Open education resource sharing is an important means and way to promote educational equity, improve educational quality and foster educational innovation. By establishing resource management systems, sharing platforms, copyright protection mechanisms, security measures and technical training, OER sharing can be realized in an efficient, safe and sustainable way, and provide strong support for the development of education. However, OER sharing faces challenges such as copyright issues, resource management and maintenance, and lack of unified standards, which need to be addressed by measures to strengthen resource management and copyright protection, establish unified resource standards and specifications, and promote interconnection and interoperability among platforms. Strengthening the awareness of resource openness and sharing, establishing resource sharing mechanism, strengthening resource sharing publicity, and establishing resource sharing incentive mechanism to promote the openness and sharing of resources are important ways to realize open education resource sharing.

**Keywords:** open university; open education resources; resource sharing

## Introduction:

In the digital era, open education resource sharing has gradually become an important way for the development of education. As one of the core features of the open university, open education resource sharing has great significance and value, which can provide students with more and better learning resources, improve education quality and effectiveness, and promote educational equity and universality. However, open education resource sharing faces many challenges, such as resource management and maintenance, copyright protection, and lack of unified standards. It needs to be promoted by strengthening resource management and copyright protection, establishing unified resource standards and specifications, and strengthening resource sharing publicity and incentive mechanisms. The

purpose of this paper is to explore the path of open education resource sharing in the context of the Open University and to elaborate its advantages, challenges and promotion strategies, with a view to providing references and lessons for educational institutions and practitioners.

## 1. The sharing path of open education resources

### 1.1 Alliance sharing: resource sharing among different open universities

Alliance sharing is a way to improve the utilization rate and teaching quality of resources through cooperation and sharing among different open universities. Consortium sharing can help establish close cooperation between open universities, jointly promote the sharing and development of educational resources, and achieve the maximization and optimization of resource sharing (Chen, 2021). In the practice of consortium sharing, different open

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universities can share course materials, teaching resources, teacher training, research results, etc., so as to achieve the maximum utilization of resources and common development. This partnership can also promote interaction and learning among open universities, improve teaching quality and effectiveness, and increase students' learning opportunities and choices.

There are some challenges to consortium sharing in practice. First, there may be differences in culture, language, and teaching modes between different OUIs, and adequate communication and consultation are needed to ensure the effectiveness of resource sharing. Second, there may be a certain degree of competition between different OUIs, and issues such as benefit distribution and contribution assessment need to be resolved by establishing reasonable cooperation mechanisms and rules (Yang, 2019). In addition, consortium sharing also requires the establishment of effective management and supervision mechanisms to ensure the quality and safety of resources.

### **1.2 Open licenses: How to use open licenses to promote resource sharing**

An open license is a legal tool used to protect intellectual property rights and promote resource sharing and reusability. Open licenses allow copyright owners to authorize others to use, copy, distribute, and modify their works for free, while also allowing others to redistribute modified works subject to the terms of the license (Li, 2019). Thus, open licenses can facilitate resource sharing, accelerate knowledge dissemination, reduce education costs, and promote innovation.

The use of open licenses plays an important role in promoting the sharing and innovation of open educational resources. Through open licenses, copyright owners can authorize others to use and modify educational resources for free, thus making the convenience and benefits of these resources available to a wider range of students and teachers. In addition, open licenses can promote cooperation and resource sharing among open universities, making the development and use of educational resources

more efficient and convenient.

When using open licenses, attention needs to be paid to the fact that different types of licenses can be chosen according to different needs and purposes, such as Creative Commons licenses, GNU General Public licenses, and Open Data licenses. The license terms should be clear, detailed, and easy to understand, including aspects such as permitted uses, disclaimers, copyright protection, and modification rules. In educational resources that use open licenses, the license type and copyright notice should be clearly marked so that others can understand the rules of use and the copyright situation. Copyright owners need to constantly monitor and maintain the validity of the licenses to ensure that others comply with the license terms and regulations and to avoid violations of license terms and copyright infringement. Overall, open licenses are an important tool to promote resource sharing and innovation, and can help the Open University to better protect intellectual property rights, promote the reusability of educational resources, reduce educational costs, and foster innovation (Yuan, 2017).

### **1.3 Open education resource repository: the importance of building and maintaining an open education resource repository**

Open education resource repository refers to a platform for centralized storage and management of open education resources. Open education resource repository includes course contents, courseware, videos, audios, pictures, documents and other forms of educational resources. Building and maintaining an open education resource library is of great significance to the open university in promoting resource sharing and improving teaching quality and effectiveness (Jin, 2014).

The importance of building an open education resource library is reflected in the following aspects:

(1) Improving the efficiency of resource utilization. Open education resource repository can store and manage resources centrally to avoid problems such as scattered resources and repeated development, improve resource utilization efficiency and save resource development costs.

(2) Improving the effect of resource sharing. The open education resource library can provide a platform for resource sharing among educational institutions, promote the sharing and exchange of resources, increase the use and reuse effect of resources, and improve the effect of resource sharing.

(3) Improve teaching quality and effectiveness. Through the open education resource library, educational institutions can share and use high-quality educational resources, improve teaching quality and effectiveness, and provide students with a better educational experience.

(4) Promote educational innovation. OER can encourage and support educational institutions to carry out innovative teaching and research activities, promote educational innovation, and increase the quality and effectiveness of education.

When building and maintaining OER repositories, the following aspects need to be taken into account:

(1) Determining norms and standards for resource collection and storage to ensure the quality and accuracy of resources.

(2) Establish a sound resource management and maintenance mechanism, including the classification, review, update and maintenance of resources.

(3) Establish a sound resource sharing and exchange mechanism to encourage resource sharing and cooperation among educational institutions and promote the development and utilization of educational resources.

(4) Strengthen technical support and security to guarantee the stability and safety of the resource library.

Building and maintaining an open education resource library is an important means and way for the Open University to promote resource sharing and educational innovation. By establishing a high-quality education resource library, it can promote the sharing and exchange of resources, improve teaching quality and effectiveness, and provide students with a better educational experience (Geng, 2021).

## 2. Advantages and challenges of open education resource sharing

### 2.1 Advantages: saving resources, improving teaching effectiveness, and promoting educational equity

Saving resources: open education resource sharing can avoid duplicate development and waste of resources and improve the efficiency of resource utilization. For example, multiple open universities can share the same course content and teaching resources, avoiding duplicate development and production and saving resource development costs.

Improving teaching effectiveness: Open education resource sharing can provide educational institutions with more and better quality educational resources and improve teaching quality and effectiveness. For example, educational institutions can use course materials and teaching resources shared by other institutions to improve teaching effectiveness and students' learning experience.

Promote educational equity: OER sharing can provide students with more and wider learning opportunities and promote educational equity. For example, by sharing course resources, students can access more learning opportunities and choices across geographical and time constraints, improving educational equity.

### 2.2 Challenges: Copyright issues, resource management and maintenance, lack of uniform standards, etc.

Copyright issues: OER sharing may involve copyright issues, which require strict management and protection of resource copyrights to avoid infringement (Feng, 2018). For example, open education resource sharing platforms need to review and protect the copyright of resources to ensure the legality and safety of resources.

Resource management and maintenance: Open education resource sharing requires classification, integration, review, updating, and maintenance of resources, which requires a lot of human, material, and financial resources. For example, the OER sharing platform needs to establish a perfect resource management and maintenance mechanism, including

the classification, review, update, and maintenance of resources to ensure the quality and accuracy of resources.

**Lack of uniform standards:** There is a lack of uniform norms and standards for the format, content, and standards of resources shared by OER, and there is a certain degree of uncertainty and instability. For example, different OER sharing platforms may use different standards and formats, resulting in incompatible and unsharable resources.

**Lack of a unified platform:** The lack of a unified platform for OER sharing has led to certain restrictions on the sharing and utilization of resources. For example, there is a lack of interconnection between different OER sharing platforms, and there are certain limitations in the sharing and utilization of resources.

### **3.Countermeasures and suggestions for building open education resource sharing**

#### **3.1 Raising awareness of open sharing of educational resources**

Enhancing the awareness of open sharing of educational resources is the key to promoting the sharing of open educational resources. In order to achieve the goal of optimal allocation and maximum utilization of resources, education practitioners and students need to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of open sharing of resources and actively promote the practice and development of open sharing of resources (Feng & Zhang, 2022). In order to enhance the awareness of open sharing of educational resources, the concept, meaning and value of open educational resources can be introduced to education practitioners and students through publicity and promotion to promote their awareness and understanding of open sharing of resources. Establish a resource sharing mechanism and an open education resource sharing platform to encourage education practitioners and students to share resources and promote the openness and sharing of resources.

Strengthen education practitioners' and students' awareness of social responsibility, encourage them to

actively participate in resource sharing and cooperation, cultivate a sharing culture and sharing spirit, and improve the effectiveness and quality of resource sharing. Through training and curriculum development, we strengthen education practitioners and students' ability to open and share resources, improve their understanding and use of open education resources, and promote the practice and development of open and shared resources.

Overall, enhancing the awareness of open sharing of educational resources is the key to promoting the sharing of open educational resources. It requires the joint efforts of educational practitioners and students to strengthen the publicity of open sharing of resources, establish a resource sharing mechanism, cultivate a sharing culture and sharing spirit, and promote the practice and development of open sharing of resources. Only in this way can we achieve the goal of maximizing the use of resource sharing and educational equity.

#### **3.2 Strengthening the management of open education resource sharing**

Open education resource sharing management is an important guarantee for realizing resource sharing and educational equity. It is necessary to strengthen resource sharing management, ensure the quality and safety of resources, and promote the sharing and exchange of resources. To strengthen open education resource sharing management, resource sharing standards can be formulated, including standards for the format, content, and quality of resources, to ensure uniformity, standardization, and accuracy of resources. Establish a resource review mechanism to manage resources in terms of classification, review, update, and maintenance to ensure the quality and security of resources. Provide technical support and security to ensure the stability and security of the resource sharing platform and avoid the loss and leakage of resources. Strengthen resource sharing publicity, introduce the concept, meaning and value of resource sharing to education practitioners and students, encourage them to participate in resource sharing and exchange, and promote the opening and sharing of resources. Establish a resource sharing

incentive mechanism to reward and commend education practitioners and students who actively participate in resource sharing and cooperation, and promote the enthusiasm and creativity of resource sharing and exchange.

Strengthening the management of open education resource sharing is an important guarantee for achieving resource sharing and educational equity. Measures such as establishing resource sharing standards and audit mechanisms, providing technical support and security guarantees, strengthening resource sharing publicity and establishing resource sharing reward mechanisms can effectively promote resource sharing and exchange, advance the opening and sharing of resources, and provide strong support for the development of education.

### 3.3 Technical support and guarantee for promoting open education resource sharing

Technical support and guarantee are needed to promote OER sharing, including support and guarantee for resource management, sharing platform construction, copyright protection, security guarantee, etc. Only through technical means and measures can the efficient, safe and sustainable development of OER sharing be realized. In order to promote open education resource sharing, it is necessary to classify, integrate, review, update and maintain resources through a resource management system to ensure the quality and security of resources. Establish an open education resource sharing platform to realize the interconnection of resources and improve the efficiency of resource utilization and sharing effect. Establish a copyright protection mechanism to review and protect the resources from copyright infringement. Provide security measures, including data backup, security encryption, network security protection, etc., to ensure the safety and stability of the resource sharing platform. Provide technical training for education practitioners and students on open resource sharing to improve their understanding and ability to use open resource sharing technology and promote the practice and development of open resource sharing.

### 4. Conclusion:

Open education resource sharing is an important means and way to promote educational equity, improve educational quality, and foster educational innovation. By strengthening resource management and copyright protection, establishing unified resource standards and specifications, and strengthening resource sharing publicity and incentive mechanisms, the efficient, safe and sustainable development of open education resource sharing can be achieved, providing strong support for the development of education. As a pioneer of educational innovation, the Open University should give full play to its advantages in resource sharing and digitization, continuously explore and innovate the modes and paths of open education resource sharing, and make greater contributions to the equity and universality of education.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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