OER Treasure Hunt Worksheet

*This work is an adaptation of “OER Treasure Hunt Worksheet” by Mathieu Plourde (*[*attribution details*](#x9kl14tgxaz)*).*

**Student name: [write name here]**

## 1. Course Identification

**Course name:** [insert course name]

**Target audience(s):** [describe level of course, whether it’s majors or non-majors, etc.]

**Traditional textbook offerings for this course:**

Visit sites from textbook publishers, such as Pearson, McGraw-Hill, Cengage, McMillan, etc., and find two potential textbooks you could consider to support your target course. These could be the textbooks a professor is already using.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Format** | **Retail price** |
| Textbook 1 | Paper - new |  |
| Textbook 1 | Digital - Bought |  |
| Textbook 1 | Digital - Rental |  |
| Textbook 2 | Paper - new |  |
| Textbook 2 | Digital - Bought |  |
| Textbook 2 | Digital - Rental |  |
| Other? |  |  |

## 2. Topic identification.

Following answers to section 1, identify at least 5 topics that you can use in your OER search (hint: textbook table of contents can help).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topics** | **Keywords (to help with the search queries)** |
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## 3. Search

Start from these pages and search for materials related to your identified topics. Do not spend more than 45 minutes on this. If you can’t find anything, make your search broader.

* [Open Textbook Library](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)
* [UMass-Amherst LibGuide](https://www.library.umass.edu/services/teaching-and-learning/oer/open-textbooks/)
* Also search on [Youtube](http://www.youtube.com/)

Now, Copy and paste here all titles and URLs of the items that fit, even remotely, your topics (at least 10).

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## 4. Curate

Target three (3) of the most promising items from your list in section 2, and explore the content. Does it look credible? Use the following criteria to assess their value:

* Author
* Sponsoring institution
* Number of adopters
* Nature of adopters (are they credible?)
* Ratings
* Sources cited in content?
* (Any other criteria you can add?)

#### Item 1:

#### Item 2:

#### Item 3:

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## 5. Reflect

Reflect on each of the following questions, and provide short written answers to at least 3 of them.

**Did you find materials that could fit your needs?**

**Which materials did you find that could be used as-is (simply shared as a file or a link to potential students)?**

**Which materials would require some massaging/remixing on your part to bring up to your standards? Are the materials you have found licensed in a way that would allow you to make those tweaks?**

**Do you believe they match the quality of what publishers can offer? Why or why not?**

**Could your students or colleagues help you find and vet OER materials? What would be your strategy?**

**How much would your students save if you swapped some required textbooks for OER for a class of 10, and a class of 50 students?**



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