Open Educational Resources (OER) are are teaching and learning materials that have intellectual property licenses allowing free use and repurposing. These freely accessible resources can increase access to high-quality education, reducing the cost barrier for access. OER are also adaptable to local cultures, languages, and communities.

The OER below exemplify the range of learning opportunities available for public management functions. These resources can give background on governmental and political processes, as well as international contexts for social issues, and are best paired with other learning activities, such as in-person discussion and facilitation. While these resources are not all inclusive, we hope they will spark new ideas for you.

OER FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

"Making Government Work in Hard Places"

This course focuses on using citizen monitoring and community-driven projects to improve services in rural areas. It also looks at how to prevent conflicts of interest from blocking institutional reform, build trust and community, and change public expectations.

TIME: 9 weeks/ 27-45 hours total
TYPE: Online Course
SOURCE: PrincetonX
LINK: https://www.edx.org/course/making-government-work-hard-places-princetonx-mgwx

"How Politicians Debate"

This course gives perspective on the political process. Individuals and leaders of community action groups can apply the lessons to improve communication with politicians.

TIME: 6 weeks/ 12-24 hours total
TYPE: Online Course
SOURCE: TU DelftX
LINK: https://www.edx.org/course/framing-how-politicians-debate-delftx-frame101x

"Public Speaking"

In this course, students learn the history and importance of public speaking, as well as practical techniques to improve their presence and projection in the act of speaking. The process of speechwriting is also examined, as well as the proper and effective use of presentation aids like posters and powerpoints.

TIME: 85 hours total
TYPE: Course Materials
SOURCE: Saylor Academy
LINK: https://learn.saylor.org/course/view.php?id=19

"Public Relations"

This resource focuses on various aspects of presentation and perception in the public forum. Commanding and truthful communication with the public or the media is an important skill for government for representatives of the government or large organizations. Informing citizens of government initiatives establishes and maintains trust in government institutions.

TIME: Varies
TYPE: Course Materials
SOURCE: Saylor Academy
LINK: https://learn.saylor.org/course/view.php?id=20

"Global Diplomacy: Diplomacy in the Modern World"

This course explores the development of global diplomacy through the different practices popular over the recent decades. In addition to theoretical background, the students will be exposed to empirical evidence of the diplomatic process, giving them the opportunity to learn practical skills.

TIME: varies
TYPE: Online Course
SOURCE: University of London
LINK: https://www.coursera.org/learn/global-diplomacy

"Federalism & Decentralization: Evaluating Africa's Track Record"

This course focuses on case studies from the African continent to dissect political and organizational transitions. This course is valuable to those who need a wide base of regional political knowledge to inform future decisions.

TIME: varies
TYPE: Online Course
SOURCE: Universiteit Leiden
LINK: https://www.coursera.org/learn/decentralization-africa

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL OER FOR AFRICA

Merlot Africa Network (MAN)

The MERLOT Africa Network (MAN) is a network of partnerships between African and US educational institutions affiliated with the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) and leading global eLearning providers with educational programs targeting Sub-Saharan Africa. MAN's goal is to facilitate communities of eLearning expertise and capacity building for open education, scholarship, and development in Africa.

Open Africa Toolkit

The WikiAfrica Open Africa Toolkit is a website that introduces users to OER, open data, and information on open licensing.

OER Africa

OER Africa is a repository for quality OER in thematic areas for Africa. It also supports the creation and adaptation of OER in the following themes: Agriculture OER , Health OER, Teacher Education OER, Foundation OER, and OER Initiatives in Africa.

openAFRICA

openAFRICA is a free public and independent source for open data for Africa, maintained by Code for Africa. Data can be downloaded, uploaded, stored, or made available publicly. Search for data by country. openAFRICA runs with support from the Africa Media Initiative (AMI), the World Bank Institute (WBI), and Google.

OER@AVU

The OER@AVU Portal hosts a collection of OER textbooks and modules in English, French, and Portuguese. The academic materials focus on enhancing science teacher education and subjects related to Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). OER@AVU is a collaborative initiative of the African Virtual University (AVU), a Pan African Intergovernmental Organization whose aim is to significantly increase access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of ICT. AVU is currently the leading African institution in producing and using OERs.

School of Open

School of Open is an initiative run by a global community of volunteers providing free online courses, face-to-face workshops, and innovative training programs on the meaning, application, and impact of "openness" in the digital age. School of Open also provides educational materials on how to add a Creative Commons license to work, find free resources for classroom use, remix a music video, and more. It is a product of Peer 2 Peer University and Creative Commons. Read about School of Open Africa initiatives in in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda here.

Obami

The Obami portal's OpenMe! course contains modules and activities for elementary students to learn about Creative Commons, content licensing, and resource exchange.

African Health OER Network

The African Health OER Network ("the Network") advances health education in Africa by creating and promoting free, openly licensed teaching materials created by Africans to share knowledge, address curriculum gaps, and support health education communities. The Network enables participants to develop, adapt, and share health education resources, in order to strengthen the intellectual and policy infrastructures within and between African health training programs and facilitate dialogue around health education.

GENERAL LINKS

OERCommons.org
Online courses and reference materials

OERAfrica.org
Resources curated specifically for an African audience

edX.org
Full catalogue of massive open online courses (MOOCs)

Skillscommons.org
Courses for technical skills training

Openstax.org
Openly licensed textbooks

Lumen Learning
Openly licensed digital course materials

YALI.STATE.GOV/COURSES
YALI Network online courses