



POLICY ON OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

BHIKSU UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Approval authority:	The Council of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka, on the recommendation of the Senate
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Date of Approval:	
Date of Revision:	
Description in Brief:	This policy outlines the University's position on Open Educational Resources (OERs) and provides guidelines for practice in learning and teaching.

SECTION 1

Rationale

The Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka is committed to participating in the scholarly community by providing high-quality teaching, research, and learning practices across a range of disciplines. Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely available, openly licensed materials and media that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessment. Wide repertoires of OER are available for free use by teachers, instructors, course creators, and students. OER allows bringing the excellent teaching-learning resources into our education system and making effective use of them. As per UNESCO, "OER include Teaching and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, those resides in the public domain or have been released under open licensing that permits no cost access, use, adaptation, and redistribution by others with no or limited copyright restrictions".

SECTION 2

Scope

This policy applies to all students and staff in the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka.

All staff and students are encouraged to utilize and publish OER using a Creative Commons (CC) license, subscribing to the principles of retaining, reusing, revising, remixing, and redistributing.

Two principles guide such usage:

- (1) when adopting/adapting OER, all users strictly adhere to the terms and conditions of the original open license;
- (2) when producing and publishing OER, all materials should be covered under a Creative Commons license CC-BY-NC-SA; unless otherwise stated. A full list of CC licenses is available in the APPENDIX.

All OER materials originally produced or developed at BUSL and shared externally should carry a disclaimer indicating that the material is for educational purposes only and that BUSL absolves itself of any subsequent practical misuse of the material or its content.

When producing and publishing any OER, the copyright owner(s), author(s), date and the Creative Commons license applied must be visibly attributed. The copyright owner will normally be BUSL. The license declaration on the OER will be in the **following sample format:**



Attribution CC BY-NC-SA ©2020 BUSL

Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons CC- BY-NC-SA. To view a copy of this license, visit

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

SECTION 3

Definitions

“Copyrights” - Copyright refers to laws that regulate the use of the work of a creator, such as an artist or author. This includes copying, distributing, altering, and displaying creative, literary, and other types of work. Unless otherwise stated in a contract, the author or

creator of a work retains the copyright. The author/s retains the moral rights to assign the rights to any other person or share the materials with others in any other conditions he/she may desire.

“Creative Commons licenses” (CC) give everyone from individual creators to large companies and institutions a clear, standardized way to grant permission to others to use their creative work.

All Creative Commons licenses ensure that creators retain their copyright and get credit for their work, while permitting others to copy and distribute it.

“Open Educational Resources” (OER) - OERs are defined as 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 License” (OL): OL is defined as a license that specifies what can and cannot be done with a work (whether sound, text, image, or multimedia). It grants permissions and states restrictions. Broadly speaking, an open license is one that grants permission to access, re-use, and redistribute a work with few or no restrictions. Creative Commons has open licenses in six different types.

Open license refers to a license that respects the intellectual property rights of the copyright owner and provides permissions granting the public the rights to access, re-use, re-purpose, adapt and redistribute educational materials.

“University” means the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka (BUSL).

SECTION 4

Purpose and Objectives

Purpose

The basic purpose of the OER Policy of the BUSL is to lay down a broad guideline and a functional framework for providing learning opportunities for those who have no access to education resources, materials, and practices, thus promoting educational equity. A strong OER Policy promotes access to high-quality learning resources across borders for those who want to achieve higher goals, thus enhancing educational quality.

Objectives

1. To improve the quality of education
2. To increase accessibility and flexibility of curricula
3. To keep pace with the technology trend arising in the Higher Education sector.
4. To store, preserve, and provide access to a variety of digital resources to students and teachers.
5. To engage the teacher community in the development and sharing of digital resources.
6. To facilitate teachers in creating and sharing contextual teaching and learning resources.
7. To enhance skills needed in lifelong learning.

SECTION 5

Principles of Open Educational Resources

There are five basic principles (5Rs), one of which must be available at least in any educational resource in order to be open.

The 5Rs include:

1. Retain - permission to make, own, and control copies of the content (e.g., download, duplicate, store, and manage)
2. Revise - permission to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)
3. Remix - permission to combine the original or revised content with other material to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
4. Reuse - permission to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)
5. Redistribute - permission to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of to a friend)

SECTION 6

Framework for the use of Open Educational Resources

1. Academics and Researchers of the University should actively take part in searching, recommending, and monitoring the available OER as suitable for the students.

2. Academics and Researchers of the University should take part actively in developing or making necessary modifications to the OER as suitable for students to use.
3. The Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) will provide oversight in monitoring the OER activities of the University. University Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) will liaise with CQA in order to monitor the use of OER at the Faculty level.

SECTION 7

Policy Statement

1. All academics and students engaged in education and research at the University will have an opportunity to develop, modify, publish, and use (learning and assessments) the OER pertaining to university activities.
2. The University is committed to fostering the active engagement of both staff and students to be involved in improving Learning/Teaching and Assessments with the use of OER
3. The University recognizes the achievements of educational goals by both academics and students through the development/use of OER.
4. The University also recognizes that all students should have an equal opportunity to access and use of OER regardless of the level of the study programme, gender, religion, or any other inability (physical, psychological, financial, social, literal etc).
5. The University further recognizes that although both staff and students should enjoy full benefits of OER, they should not get penalized based on the disadvantages specially, quality/reliability, limitations of copyright protection, or any other technological issues.
6. The University provides facilities for students to develop their skills in self-regulated learning, thus to become more independent learner through by using OER both within and outside their core program of study.
7. The staff and students are well informed about the place of OER in the University.
8. The University encourages all stakeholders to provide regular feedback on the use of OER in learning and teaching activities for quality improvement.
9. Raise awareness on the concepts and practices related to OER among all stakeholders.
10. Implement an effective feedback mechanism to review and amend the OER Policy periodically.

SECTION 8

Implementation of the Policy

1. The University OER Repository shall be created and maintained by the University Library. It shall strive to provide resources of the highest quality. The reviewing process shall be carried out by each OER Quality Review Committee. All recommended OERs by OER Quality Review Committee must be uploaded to the OER repository of BUSL.
2. The OER Quality Review Committee shall consider the following before granting its clearance.
 - Whether materials are high quality
 - All learning materials and other publications produced for the BUSL shall be checked to ensure that the correct OER license is adhered to.
 - OER selected for inclusion in the BUSL teaching and learning resources should support the agreed teaching and learning processes and approaches of the university (e.g. rationale, language, interaction, motivation, assessment) and should:
 - ✓ Be accurate and contemporary
 - ✓ Be presented in an appropriate style and format
 - ✓ Be technologically accessible to the target staff and students
 - ✓ Not breach any third-party copyright and/ or license conditions
3. University curriculum-based learning resources developed through peer reviewing and a strict quality assurance mechanism inbuilt in the course development process shall not require further reviewing but shall be forwarded with reviewing evidence to the OER Quality Review Committee for routine clearance.
4. All other contributions shall be peer reviewed within the department before submitting them for the OER Quality Review Committee. All cleared OER shall be directed to the University library or uploading on the OER Repository.
5. OER Quality Review Committee of a University shall constitute the following members: Director of Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) as the Chairperson, Dean of the respective faculty, the Head of the relevant Departments, and the Librarian of the University.
6. The University recommends that written and interactive digital teaching resources shall be published in an OER repository in order to maximize discovery and use by others, and provides this service for OER development.
7. Where OER have been created as part of an externally funded activity, any storage and/ or repository locations mandated as a condition of the funding should be used.

8. The OER developed by students shall be reviewed by a relevant faculty member and forwarded the same with a review report to the OER Quality Review Committee for clearance.

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References

1. Open Educational Resources (OER) Policy Sambalpur University, JyotiVihar, Sambalpur- 768 019.
2. Open Educational Resources (OER) Policy, The Open University of Sri Lanka (Revised 2020).
3. CRDP Policy on Open Educational Resources (OER).
4. Policy on the use of Open Educational Resources, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, 2022.

Appendix

License Elements and License Types

License Elements

	This symbol means Attribution or “BY.” All of the licenses include this condition.
	This symbol means Non Commercial or “NC,” which means the work is only available to be used for non-commercial purposes. Three of the CC licenses include this restriction.
	This symbol means Share Alike or “SA,” which means that adaptations based on this work must be licensed under the same license. Two of the CC licenses include this condition.
	This symbol means No Derivatives or “ND,” which means reusers cannot share adaptations of the work. Two of the CC licenses include this restriction.



When combined, these icons represent the six CC license options. The icons are also embedded in the “license buttons,” where each represents a particular CC license type.





License Types







There are six different CC licenses, designed to help accommodate the diverse needs of creators while still using simple, standardized terms. The four license elements—BY, SA, NC, and ND—combine to make up six different license options.

All of the licenses include the BY condition. In other words, all of the licenses require that the creator be attributed in connection with their work. Beyond that commonality, the licenses vary whether (1) commercial use of the work is permitted; and (2) whether the work can be adapted, and if so, on what terms.

The six licenses, from least to most restrictive in terms of the freedoms granted reusers, are:

	The Attribution license or “CC BY” allows people to use the work for any purpose (even commercially and even in modified form) as long as they give attribution to the creator.
	The Attribution - Share Alike license or “BY-SA” allows people to use the work for any purpose (even commercially and even in modified form), as long as they give attribution to the creator and make any adaptations they share with others available under the same or a compatible license. This is CC’s version of a copyleft license, and is the license required for content uploaded to Wikipedia, for example.

	<p>The Attribution - Non Commercial license or “BY-NC” allows people to use the work for non commercial purposes only, and only as long as they give attribution to the creator.</p>
	<p>The Attribution - Non Commercial-Share Alike license or “BY-NC-SA” allows people to use the work for non commercial purposes only, and only as long as they give attribution to the creator and make any adaptations they share with others available under the same or a compatible license.</p>
	<p>The Attribution - No Derivatives license or “BY-ND” allows people to use the unadopted work for any purpose (even commercially), as long as they give attribution to the creator.</p>
	<p>The Attribution - Non Commercial -No Derivatives license or “BY-NC-ND” is the most restrictive license offered by CC. It allows people to use the unadapted work for non commercial purposes only, and only as long as they give attribution to the licensor.</p>

LICENSE	Attribution is required	Commercial use is allowed	Modification & Adaptation are allowed
Attribution CC - BY 	✓	✓	✓
Attribution - Share Alike CC – BY - SA 	✓	✓	✓ The new work should carry the same license
Attribution - No Derivatives CC – BY - ND 	✓	✓	✗
Attribution – Non-Commercial CC – BY - NC 	✓	✗	✓
Attribution – Non-Commercial- Share Alike CC – BY – NC - SA 	✓	✗	✓ The new work should carry the same license
Attribution–Non-Commercial- No Derivatives CC – BY – NC -ND 	✓	✗	✗