



AFRICAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITE VIRTUELLE AFRICAINE
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The African Virtual University's Open Education Resources (OER) Policy

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Purpose

The African Virtual University's (AVU) Open Education Resources repository, OER@AVU, is an opportunity for African educators to share open educational resources with each other, and the world. High quality resources can serve to inspire teachers, be directly used by students, and be improved upon, or localized by others. The AVU has seeded the repository with 219 high-quality modules, written by educators from many countries in Africa, but the repository depends on your contributions and participation.

In order to enable the widest possible use and reuse of the materials, two factors are vital: license, and file formats.

i. License

All materials released on the OER@AVU site are covered under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported license (CC BY-SA). This license allows you to freely modify, rework and extend any of the material, and later distribute it under the following two conditions: You must provide attribution to the creator of the material, and you must license your derivative version under the same license (CC BY-SA). For specific legal terms, please see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>. If you contribute material to OER@AVU, you must be the owner of the material, and you must consent to releasing the material under the CC BY-SA license as part of the submission process.

ii. File formats

This repository accepts files in a variety of formats, including in the Portable Document Format (PDF), which is very convenient to display. However, PDFs are very difficult to edit, and may not be accessible to people who do not have specialized editing software. Contributors are therefore encouraged to also supply the source-files in an editable form that was used to generate the PDFs, for example Word documents, Powerpoint files, etc. A single submission can contain a number of different files in different formats.

Other file formats that are supported include but are not limited to Postscript, MPEG Audio, WAV, GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, HTML, Plain text, Rich Text Format, XML, CSV and Tab Separated Values.

The following file formats are also recognized but may not have the full functionality – Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Project, and Visio; Wordperfect, Photoshop, BMP, Quicktime Video.

Quality

The repository strives to provide resources of the highest quality. Contributions will be peer-reviewed, but users are also able to leave comments. You are encouraged to provide constructive criticism and feedback on the modules which you access. Although there are mechanisms in place to support quality resources, you should still approach all the resources provided with a critical eye, and students should be taught to use multiple sources, and critically evaluate all information they access.

The Wider World of OER

AVU@OER is part of a large, and growing, worldwide movement to make educational information available. In addition, there are larger “open” movements, such as Open Access publishing, and free electronic libraries of public-domain books, open source software and creative expressions. The resources commissioned by AVU all contain links to useful external resources, and you are invited to also provide such links in your own material. You are also invited to include AVU materials in other open contexts, by linking to them, or by reusing parts of the material. Feel free to let us know if you reuse the material in contexts outside of OER@AVU.

Languages

AVU strongly supports multilingualism, and the right of each individual to access materials in his or her mother tongue. Currently, the repository accepts material in English, French and Portuguese. You are welcome to translate the material into other languages, including African native languages.