

“Good Enough” Editing with Open Educational Resources

Presented by
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West Coast Editorial Associates
Saturday, June 13, 2015



West Coast Editorial Associates (WCEA) is a partnership of nine editors with offices in Vancouver and Victoria. Since 1992, WCEA has provided high-quality writing, editing, and training services for a wide range of clients. For more information, please visit www.westcoasteditors.com.

Ruth Wilson began her career with Vancouver book publisher Self-Counsel Press, working her way up from editorial assistant to managing editor. She left the comfort of in-house life after 16 years to become an independent consultant, and she joined WCEA in 1998. Besides editing for a wide range of clients, she also teaches editorial skills for the Writing and Communications Program at Simon Fraser University. Ruth has served on several EAC committees, including the Certification Steering Committee (as member and chair), the Governance Task Force, and the sub-committee to update *Professional Editorial Standards*. She was honoured with a President's Award for Service in 2011, and a Certified Professional Editor (Hon.) designation in 2013.

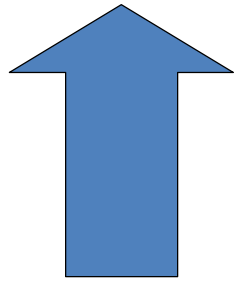
Yvonne Van Ruskenveld edits and writes for clients in business, government, and international organizations. Her specialties include developmental editing and substantive editing. She also has extensive experience in project management, having managed large multi-book, multi-platform projects involving teams of editors, indexers, artists, and designers. Yvonne has been an active member of EAC for over 25 years, contributing to numerous projects and committees. Most recently, she wrote a section for *Editorial Niches*, the companion volume to the new edition of *Editing Canadian English 3*. She also served on the recent national awards task force to review the parameters of the association's major awards, and she has chaired the selection committee for the Claudette Upton Scholarship.

What Is OER?

Open educational resources (OER) are defined as:
“teaching, learning, and research resources that
reside in the public domain or have been released
under an intellectual property license that permits
their free use and re-purposing by others.”

www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources





82%

Textbook costs
rose 82% between
2003 and 2013

65% of students report **NOT** purchasing
a textbook because of its high price

Benefits

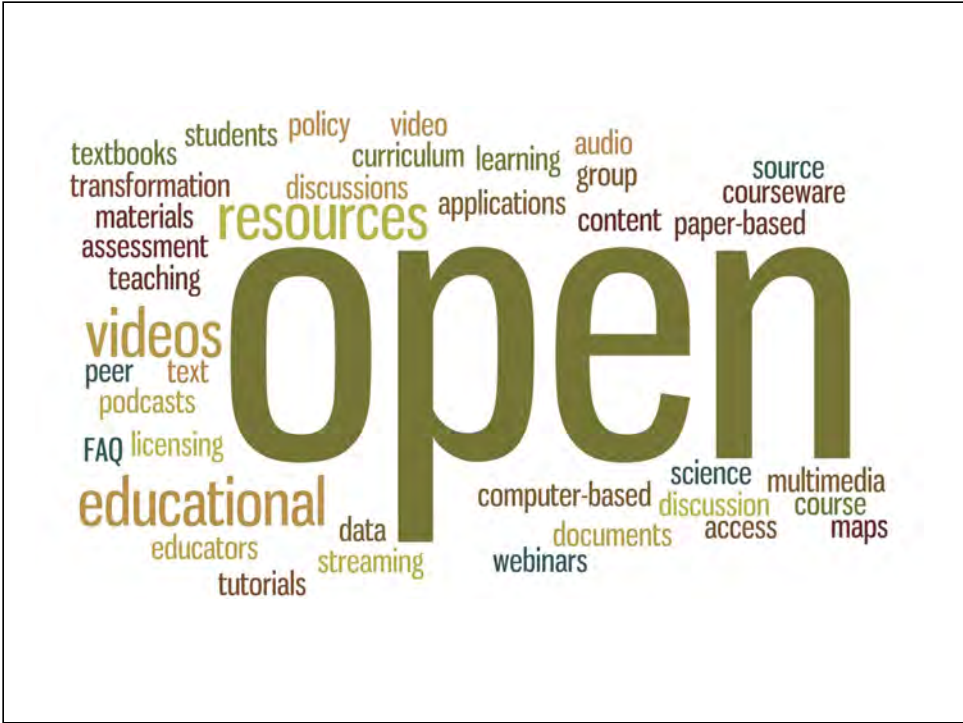
For Students

- Cost
- Access
- Relevance

For Faculty

- Student retention
- Academic freedom
- Academic profile





BCcampus Open Textbooks

The 5Rs

Retain	• Make and own copies
Reuse	• Use in a wide range of ways
Revise	• Adapt, modify, and improve
Remix	• Combine two or more
Redistribute	• Share with others

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Open Textbook Format Options

- One book, many format options
- All under Creative Commons License
- [Example: British Columbia in a Global Context](#)



Challenges

- Assumption that text is never “final”
- Authors’ abilities and responsibilities
- Copy editing only without previous substantive editing
- Single pass for proofreading



Editing in PressBooks

- No track changes
- Version comparison
- Notes
- [Example](#)



Final Words

Trust your editing instincts, and remember “the OER prayer” ...

Give us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed

The courage to change what can be changed

And the wisdom to know the one from the other



Some Useful References

BCcampus

BCcampus supports the work of British Columbia's post-secondary system in the areas of teaching, learning, and educational technology. This involves coordinating collaborative projects that span multiple institutions, introducing and supporting innovations about the ways in which people learn, and helping institutions evaluate and develop good practice in the use of technology for learning.

For more information about BCcampus and their involvement with the Open Textbook Project: <http://bccampus.ca>

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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Since 2002, the Hewlett Foundation has worked to improve education globally by making high-quality academic materials openly available on the Internet.

For more information about the foundation and their involvement in OER:
<http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources>

Selected readings on OER

“Weird but True Fact about Textbook Publishers and OER,” by Michael Feldstein, November 19, 2014: <http://mfeldstein.com/weird-true-fact-textbook-publishers-oer/>

“Open Education Resources,” in *Teaching in a Digital Age*, by Tony Bates, April 2015: <http://opentextbc.ca/teachinginadigitalage/>

“Putting a Dent in College Costs with Open-Source Textbooks,” by Ann Carrns, February 25, 2015: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/26/your-money/putting-a-dent-in-college-costs-with-open-source-textbooks.html?_r=0