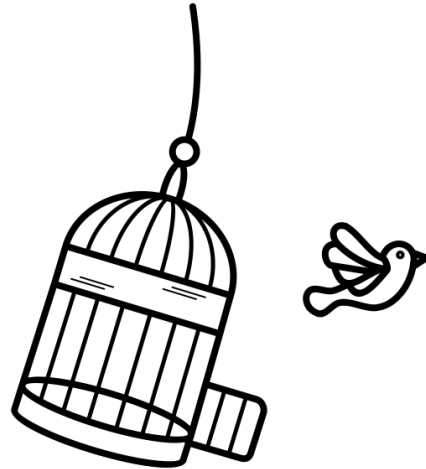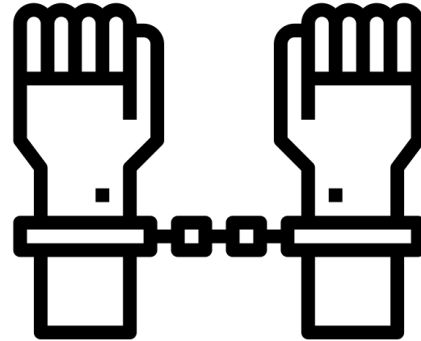# Benefits of OER:
Free The Textbook!

Steven Chang

Coordinator, Open Education & Scholarship, La Trobe University

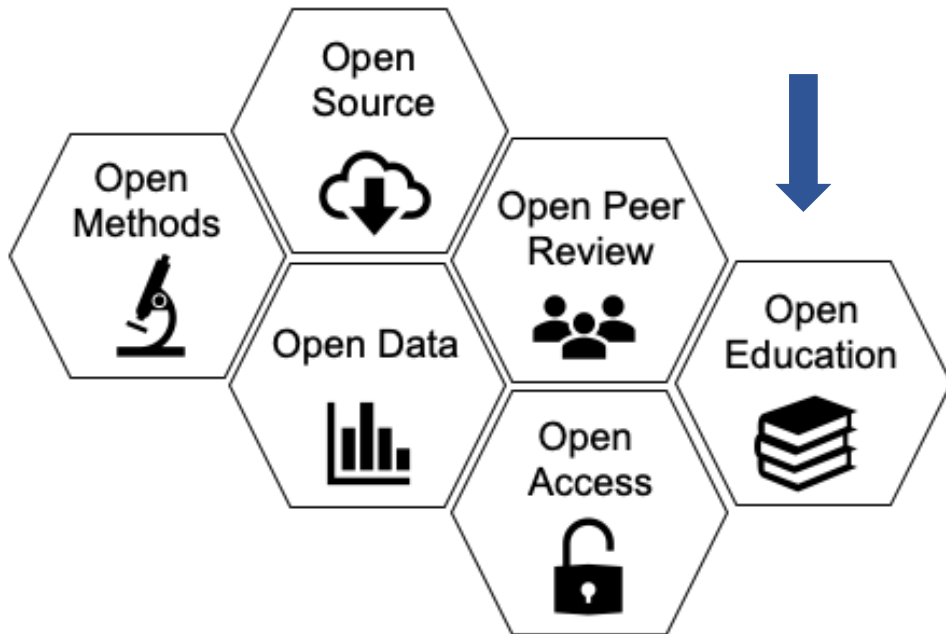# Crisis: walled garden

Traditional learning models

Print-centric pedagogy

Open educational resources (OER)

"OER are 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**.

Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."

[The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#)

Five Rs

RETAIN
keep forever

REUSE
use for your own purposes

REVISE
adapt or modify

REMIX
combine with other resources

REDISTRIBUTE
share with others

Three freedoms, new practices

1) Free as in free of cost for students

2) Freedom for academics to design the curriculum around flexible, customised resources tailored to suit their course

3) Freedom for students to learn the way they want, whenever they want, without arbitrary access barriers

Make education accessible

OER levels the playing field

Redistributive justice
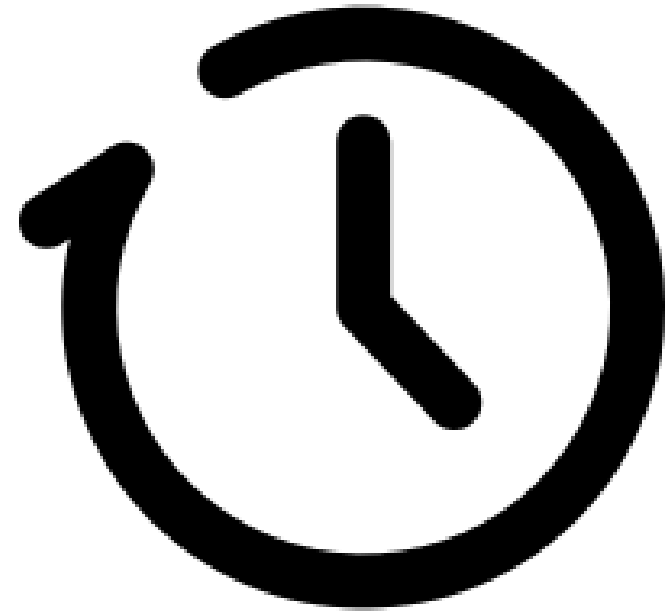
Reduce cost barriers to equitable learning

Save time

Don't reinvent the wheel!

Adopt existing content to support your course

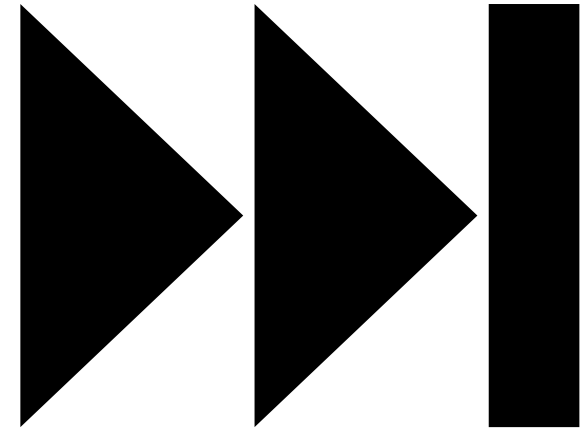Adapt others' work to mix with yours

Lifelong learning

Students can revisit learning resources after graduation in their workplaces and communities

Immediate access

- Slay those start-of-semester gremlins

- No more of those damned limited access licenses

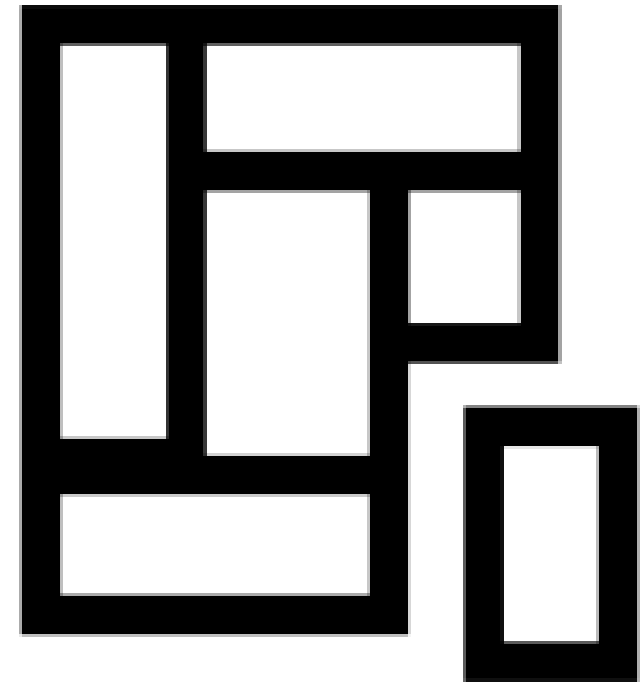# Staying current, staying relevant

Flexibility

Modularity

Currency

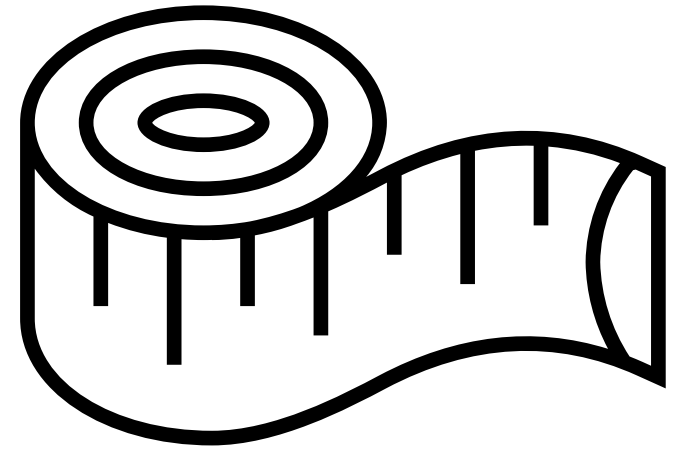Customise content to keep pace with a changing world:

Covid, BLM, GFC, etc.

Tailor content to your teaching

End the Frankenstein's Monster

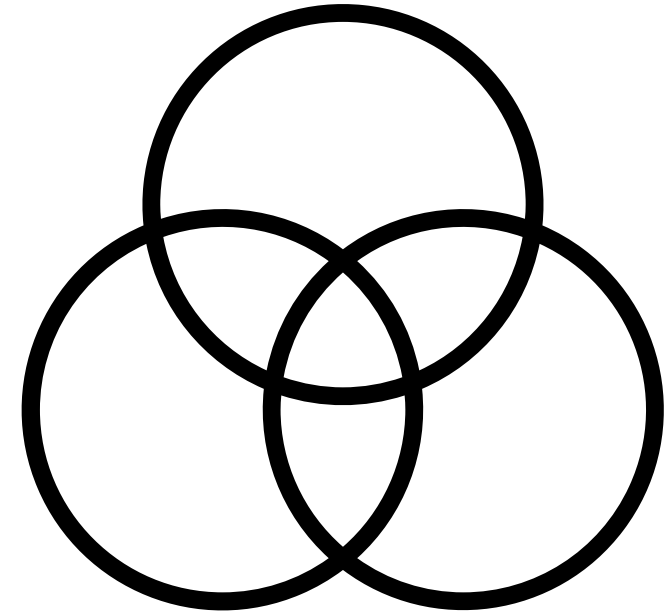Align the text with your learning and teaching approach

Diverse representation

Recognitive justice:

recognising & addressing disparities

Representational justice:

enabling unheard voices to speak

Authentic assessment

New approaches to assessment in the face of AI
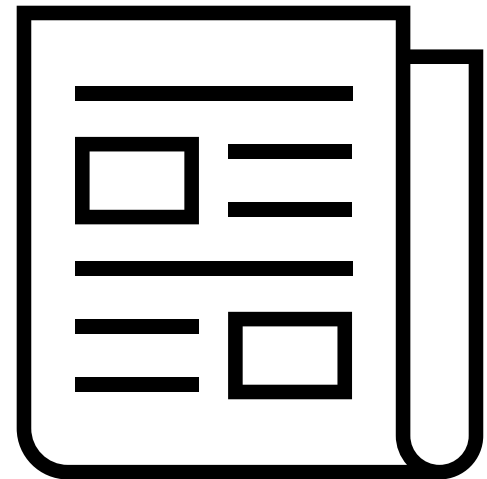
Students as partners, co-authors

Research in practice

Open educational practices are
educational interventions

Interventions can / should be
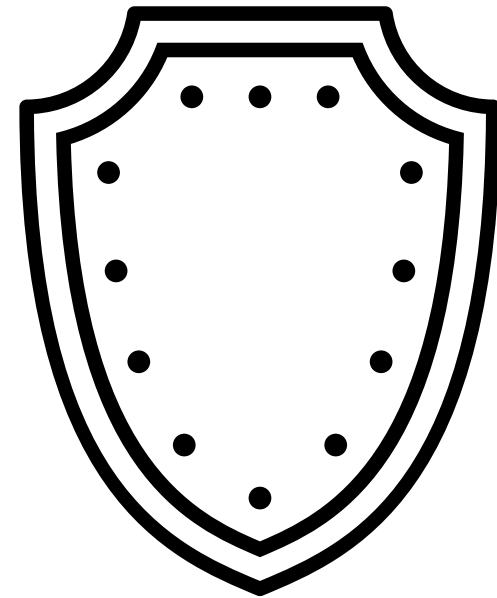*evaluated for impact*

Evaluation data = research data =
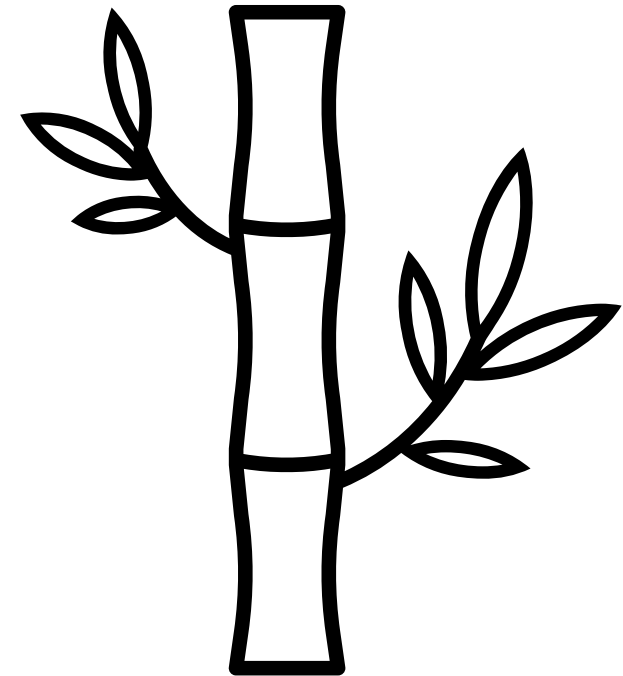*publication opportunities*

Protect your rights

Don't lock your IP behind
commercial publisher paywalls

Open licensing increases your
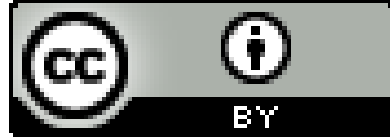control over how your work is used

Five tips for authors

1. Plan and scope before writing
2. Plant your next milestone within the next fortnight
3. Think holistically – educational practices and design
4. Evaluate impact – how will you know the intervention worked?
5. Don't go it alone

Please reuse if you like

Note: the vast majority of icons used in this presentation come from the Microsoft 360 software suite. Please feel free to replace them with alternatives.