

twillo – Digital Infrastructure for Open Educational Resources

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Abstract

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that are publicly accessible and free of charge. OER allow adaptation to specific teaching and learning contexts and (collaborative) further development. This is due to the material's open license, as well as the use of technical standards that facilitate their retrieval, reuse and interoperability. The use of open educational materials can help teaching staff with the time-consuming conception of new courses. In addition, the publication of OER offers the chance to make teaching expertise visible and to share innovative approaches for teaching and learning scenarios with the scientific community. OER is defined by rapid publication, selectable formats, no public peer review, and no commercial source of general availability, thus Grey Literature.

The OER portal twillo (www.twillo.de) is the central repository for open educational materials of the German state of Lower Saxony. First and foremost, it focuses on educational materials used in higher education. Educators can use the portal to search, find and publish teaching and learning materials for their subject area. In addition to the infrastructure for making OER available, twillo provides a variety of support and educational offerings. These are aimed at helping teaching staff create and compile open course materials as well as to address their uncertainties concerning legal, technical and didactic issues.