Open Education at The University of Edinburgh

Open by Default

The University of Edinburgh Library has a collection of over 25,000 high-quality digital images, accessible online at [http://images.is.ed.ac.uk/](http://images.is.ed.ac.uk/).

The library recently adopted an ‘open by default’ policy for this collection, meaning that all images not in copyright or subject to data protection will be made available to download at high resolution for free under a Creative Commons CC BY licence.

The incunabula collection ([http://ededs.is.ed.ac.uk/](http://ededs.is.ed.ac.uk/)) is the first to be openly licensed and the rest will be migrated over the coming months. Updates will be posted on our [blog](http://libraryblog.is.ed.ac.uk/).

Edinburgh Open Journals

The Library’s Open Journals service provides a platform for academic and student-led journals to publish Open Access journals. We support the publication of brand new journals and the migration of existing journals from websites or blogs; we’ll help with design and copyright advice to assigning DOIs. The Open Journals service is provided free of charge to academic staff and students. Journals on the platform are published using Open Journal Systems (OJS), used by over 8000 journals worldwide.

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More information: [http://journals.ed.ac.uk/](http://journals.ed.ac.uk/). Follow us on twitter: @EdOpenJournals

Open Scotland

Open Scotland ([http://openstry.net/](http://openstry.net/)) is a cross-sector initiative that aims to raise awareness of open education, encourage the sharing of open educational resources, embed open educational practice, lobby for policies that support open education at the national level, and explore the potential of open policy and practice to benefit all sectors of Scottish education.

In order to achieve these aims, Open Scotland engages with like-minded organisations and initiatives including the Association for Learning Technology, Creative Commons, the Open Policy Network, Open Knowledge and Wikimedia UK. In collaboration with ALT, Open Scotland has facilitated a number of high-profile events intended to raise awareness of open education policy and practice, including the Open Scotland Summit and the forthcoming OER 16: Open Culture Conference at the University of Edinburgh.

Open Scotland has also drafted the Scottish Open Education Declaration ([http://declaration.openstry.net/](http://declaration.openstry.net/)), with input from the open education community. The Declaration builds on the principals of the UNESCO OER Declaration, but expands its scope to encompass all aspects of open education practice.

Wikimedian in Residence

Information Services have appointed Evan McAndrew for a year-long residency in 2016–17. The residency involves facilitating a sustainable relationship between the university and Wikimedia UK to the mutual benefit of both communities.

Evan will be working establishing a network of Wikipedians on campus and to embed digital skills and open knowledge activities in learning and teaching across the University, furthering both the quantity and quality of open knowledge and the university’s commitment to digital literacy.

Wikipedia Ed-a-thons will be a large part of this; however, there are numerous ways staff and students can get involved and directly contribute their knowledge and expertise to develop Wikimedia UK’s diverse range of projects. You can keep up to date with the residency through Twitter, the Wikimedian-in-Residence blog [http://thinking.is.ed.ac.uk/wir/](http://thinking.is.ed.ac.uk/wir/) and through the Wikipedia Project page.

Open Educational Resources

Open Education Resources (OER) are online resources that are available for others to use and to repurpose. They are part of a worldwide movement to promote and support sustainable educational development. The University of Edinburgh has an OER policy, which outlines the institutional position on OERs and provides guidelines for practice in learning and teaching.

Open Ed was created as a ‘one-stop-shop’ to showcase The University of Edinburgh’s approach to OERs.

- Access to the OER service supporting staff and students in using OER.
- A calendar of OER workshops and events across campus providing both students and staff with training to support making informed decisions about licensing options for their OER.
- Best practice and ‘how to’ guidance.
- OER news and information.
- Showcases OER created within the University, highlighting best practice and OER exemplars.
- Aggregates blogs from some of most our prominent open practitioners.

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Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA)

ERA is a digital repository of original research produced at the University of Edinburgh. The archive contains documents written by, or affiliated with, academic authors, or units, based at Edinburgh that have sufficient quality to be collected and preserved by the library, but which are not controlled by commercial publishers. Holdings include full-text digital doctoral theses, masters dissertations, project reports, briefing papers and out-of-print materials.

Information on current research activity including staff, projects and publications is available via the Edinburgh Research Explorer.

Open Books

Open Books ([https://openbooks.is.ed.ac.uk/](https://openbooks.is.ed.ac.uk/)) is a collection of Open Books compiled from readers’ orders for scans, principally in black and white and some in colour. They highlight the range of resources at The University of Edinburgh’s Centre for Research Collections, from Herschel’s music manuscripts, to ‘An Essay on the Character and Central Development of Robert Burns’, to Charles Lyell’s handwritten notes. The images that have been created by the University’s Digital Imaging Unit are freely accessible to all. The FDIs are supplied under a Creative Commons CC BY licence: you may share and adapt for any purpose as long as attribution is given to the University of Edinburgh.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

The University of Edinburgh offers a range of MOOCs. MOOCs are freely accessible and open-formatted short courses, delivered to large cohorts of learners fully online. To date, more than two million people have signed up to Edinburgh courses across a broad range of subject areas, and they form part of the University’s commitment to knowledge exchange and community outreach.

MOOCs:

- do not have any entry requirements - all courses can be taken by anyone from anywhere online;
- are usually run for two or three times each year;
- are led by world-class academics and supported by teaching assistants;
- typically require 1-2 hours of study each week for around 5 weeks;
- are self-directed, meaning you follow the course materials, complete the readings and assessments, and get help from a large community of fellow learners through online forums;
- are comparable to a standard University of Edinburgh course in terms of content and study level;
- meet high academic standards and are subject to internal quality assurance processes.