

Curating Open Educational Resources

INTRODUCTION

What we mean when we say “curating” on the Internet is more like being a really top-notch editor. That is, someone who is good at picking things out of the endless Internet ether and organizing them into something else.

-Mel Buchanan, Milwaukee Art Museum’s Assistant Curator of 20th-century Design

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are often cost-free learning opportunities for faculty to include in online courses. Simply compiling a list of OERs is not practical, however: listing too many sources may overwhelm your students, and annotation is essential. Faculty need to select and annotate the relevant resources carefully, and they need to maintain the list of OERs from one semester to the next.

BENEFITS OF HAVING CURATED CONTENT

For instructors and subject matter experts, curating OERs is a way of contextualizing resources to provide a well-organized learning environment, a way of guiding the learning experience by presenting essential categories, themes, and relations.

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN CURATED CONTENT

Providing information about OERs lays the groundwork for a rich learning environment. Essential information will include some or all of the following:

- Title
- Citation of source
- Summary with an introduction to the resource with some annotation or reflection by subject matter expert that gives student some guidance for using the resource
- Link to resource
- Notes on learning activities that may be required

EXAMPLES

Example 1. Good curation, website

- Reputable source
- Well-written summary
- Source is interactive
- Directs students toward what they are supposed to get out of the resource



Learning Resources

Recommended

Smithsonian’s interactive *Human Origins* website

Summary: This site allows you to browse through various fossils and examine the morphological differences. A note of caution is that you might get very engaged and find you spent more time at this wonderful site than you intended. GREAT! This site has a lot of information.

Available here: <http://humanorigins.si.edu/>

Example 2. Good curation, media

- Engaging presentation
- Quick introduction
- Source is a good length
- Topic is well researched and well presented
- Has captions

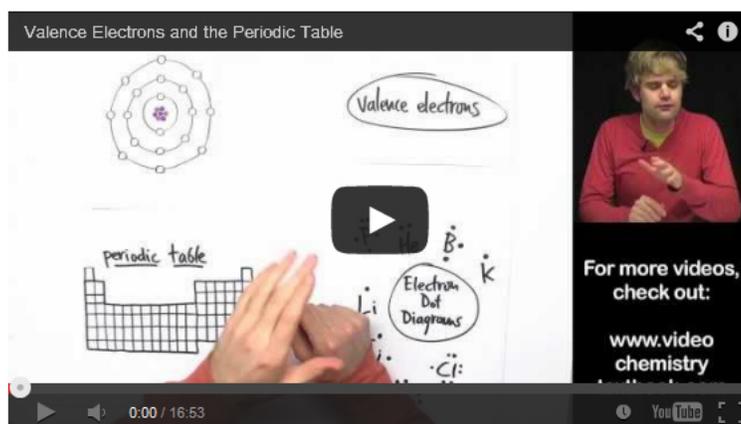
Valence Electrons and the Periodic Table

(17 minutes) Tyler DeWitt

[http://www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yADrWdNTWEc)

[/watch?v=yADrWdNTWEc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yADrWdNTWEc)

Describes simple electron structure, valence electrons, and Lewis dot symbols for main group atoms. Oversimplified model of electron shells, but a quick, easy-to-follow introduction.



ADA COMPLIANCE

When planning the learning resources you will recommend to students, don't overlook the need to be ADA-compliant. The law states that resources must be accessible quickly and easily for all students, including those with permanent or temporary disabilities. Your instructional designer can provide you with essential information on this critical consideration.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Educators as Curators: 8 Steps to Bringing Your Students the Best of the Web: <http://edcetera.rafter.com/educators-as-curators-8-steps-to-bringing-your-students-the-best-of-the-web/>

Content Curation Primer: <http://www.bethkanter.org/content-curation-101/>