

# 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 Twentieth-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, however, is not practical. Listing too many sources can overwhelm your students, and annotation is essential. Faculty need to select and annotate relevant resources carefully. They also need to maintain their 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 and a way of guiding the learning experience by presenting essential categories, themes, and relationships.

## INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN CURATED CONTENT

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

- Source title
- Full citation for source
- An introduction to and summary of the resource, with some annotation or reflection by the subject matter expert that guides students on how to use the resource
- Resource link
- Notes on learning activities that may be required

## EXAMPLES

### ***Example 1. Good curation, website***

- Reputable source
- Well-written summary
- Source 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/>

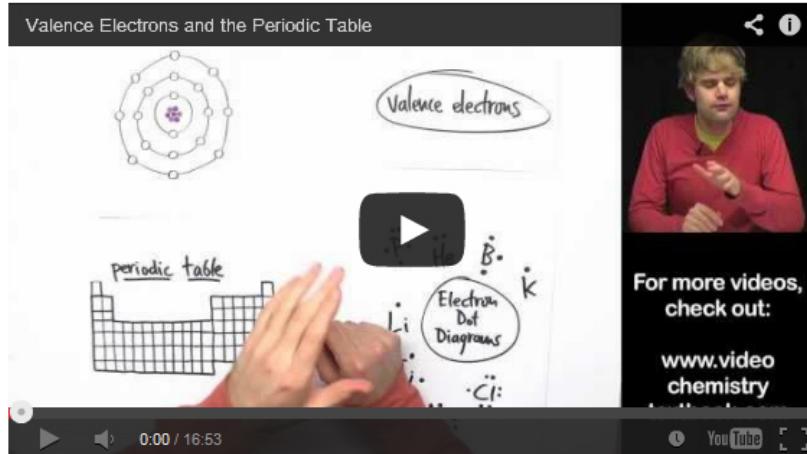
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## ***Example 2. Good curation, media***

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

*Valence Electrons and the Periodic Table*  
(17 minutes) Tyler DeWitt  
<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](#) by Edcetera
- [Content Curation Primer](#) by Beth Kanter