FACULTY GUIDE FOR EVALUATING OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

With so many freely available resources online, choosing OER can be overwhelming. This checklist contains some suggestions for faculty when choosing resources for use in the classroom.

RELEVANCE

☐ Does the information directly address one or more of the class objectives?
☐ Does it include appropriate back matter like glossaries/maps/timelines?
☐ Is the source written at an appropriate level?
☐ Does the source include examples from a variety of diverse backgrounds?

ACCURACY

☐ Is the information accurate? Are there major content errors or omissions?
☐ Are there spelling errors or typos?
☐ Has the material been peer reviewed?
☐ Is the source up-to-date?

PRODUCTION QUALITY

☐ Is the information clear and understandable?
☐ Is the layout and interface easy to navigate?
☐ Does the source use the appropriate headings and subheadings?
☐ Do the design features enhance learning?
☐ For multimedia resources, is the audio/video quality high?

ACCESSIBILITY

☐ Is the resource available in alternative formats (e.g. .doc, .html, .pdf)?
☐ For audio or video resources, is there a transcript or subtitles?
☐ Is descriptive text provided for images? Does it comply with other accessibility requirements?

INTERACTIVITY

☐ Does the resource encourage active learning and class participation? If not, are you able to add that to the resource?
☐ Are there opportunities for students to test their understanding of the material (e.g. a video with embedded questions)?

LICENSING

☐ Does the license allow for educational reuse of the materials?
☐ Does the license allow modifications or adaptations of the materials? If so, can you modify the resource to better fit the class objectives or encourage active learning?

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