K-12 BLUEPRINT

OER Localization

The practice of localization involves adapting an educational resource for a new context — such as geographical or pedagogical — and is more than just mere translation. Localization is about capturing diversity and relevance.

Localizing can fulfill many learning goals, such as adapting for various grade levels or disciplines, addressing learning styles and diversity needs, or adjusting for various learning environments.

This process is just another way of customizing materials so that they meet specific teaching and learning needs. And sharing these modifications — imbuing them with your unique contextual experiences — makes a valuable contribution to the evolution of these textbooks and learning materials!

It might seem hard to imagine how someone might utilize your materials when developing or adapting your own resources: especially educators from different geographic locations or circumstances. But there are ways of creating your own OER resources that will make it easier for someone else to localize them for their own purposes.

Creating files in flexible formats, such as HTML or Microsoft Word, makes your resources both more easily utilized and modified. HTML documents can be viewed on a web browser, while Microsoft Word documents can be saved as text (.txt) or rich text (.rft) format files and opened with any word-processing program.

Submit your resources to a repository such as OER Commons so that educators can more easily find your materials, searching by criteria such as subject area and grade level. Try searching OER Commons or a similar OER site yourself to see how others might locate your materials. Licensing your work using a Creative Commons license also allows other to use and modify your materials.

Finally, think about the benefits of localizing content at the individual, school, or level. What considerations could you keep in mind to make content easier to reuse in various teaching and learning situations?