



Maine's Open Educational Resources Project Bringing OER to the Classroom

Who and When: The Maine Department of Education issued grants in the spring of 2010. These grants were funded through *Title IID Enhancing Education through Technology - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Competitive Grant* to help content teams, with members from all over the state, find Open Educational Resources (OER). The content teams included Math, Science and Technology, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Health Education and Physical Education, World Languages, Career and Education Development, Career and Technical Education, and Visual and Performing Arts. Team members for each content area team were identified to represent the nine superintendent regions.

What: Open Educational Resources are “educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use and, under some licenses, to re-mix, improve and redistribute.”

Why: There are many free online resources available to support and enhance teaching and learning.

How: Each content team created a systematic process to find, review, select, organize title, align to either the Maine Learning Result Standards or the Common Core Standards, tag, and post on *Delicious* for Maine teachers' use. This project provided an opportunity for educators with content expertise to learn about these resources, identify OER they felt other teachers in Maine would benefit in having access to, and aligning these OER to Maine learning standards. In the long run these resources will provide the opportunity for teachers to work smarter, not harder. Importantly, the Maine Department of Education is in the process of designing a repository to house all of these OER along with other learning resources.

Where: Teams are currently working to enter them into the bookmarking site Delicious at www.delicious.com/syntiromsn.

Next Steps:

Getting the word out and beginning to bring these rich resources into the forefront, team members from all of the content teams will have the opportunity to share their learning. This information can be shared informally among colleagues, or more formally at team, grade-level, staff or leadership meetings, regional meetings (e.g., curriculum coordinator, guidance, superintendent, special education), conferences or workshops, and seminars.

When team members know they will be presenting a professional development sharing related to the OER project, they are asked to complete the Presentation Form at <http://tinyurl.com/oersharing>.

Disclaimer: Team members who share at any of these venues can use the presentation planning agenda, PowerPoint, handouts, or other materials found at www.syntiro.org/oer. These materials on the Syntiro website were designed to help support presenters, and display all logos and project references as required by the grant.