

OPEN SOURCE RESOURCES

This month's Teacher's Corner has outlined a variety of technology tools designed to give teachers more flexibility and customization in making new materials. These tools combined with a spark of teacher creativity can lead to a wide variety of new materials that can re-engage students.

This week's Teacher's Corner provides assistance in developing materials by highlighting online resources for teachers. These resources take advantage of the 'open source' movement, providing text, audio, images, and even entire academic courses for free. These resources can be integrated into classroom materials and used alongside tools highlighted this month such as Hot Potatoes and Audacity.

When using online resources, it is important to be aware of copyright laws for classroom practice and to demonstrate proper source use to students. For 21st century educators, teaching students proper digital citizenship skills has never been more important. Part of these skills is 'information literacy' and ensuring our students are able to access and evaluate digital resources effectively and utilize proper use. Each of the sites listed in this week's Teacher's Corner helps sort through which materials can be used in the classroom without violating copyright restrictions. For more information on 21st century skills, visit [here](#).

All of the resources this week use, to some degree, the philosophy of the open-source movement. This movement amongst teachers, developers, governments, and organizations strives to make materials that can be shared without the worry of copyright violations and, when possible, for free.

For more information on the open-source philosophy, visit the [Creative Commons website](#).

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Below are a variety of websites that provide a host of resources for teachers and students. These materials can be accessed for free and can be integrated into classroom resources. Each site has its own strengths and weaknesses in regards to resources, so it is recommended to explore them all and determine how each can play a part in your materials development.

American English – americanenglish.state.gov

American English hosts a variety of materials specifically designed for teachers and learners of English as a Foreign or Second Language. Since you are probably familiar with Teacher's Corner (!) we will highlight some of the other features of the American English website.

- [American Culture](#) – The American English website is home to a wide assortment of publications and materials related to American culture and customs.
- [English Teaching Forum](#) – This journal contains articles on topics of interest to the language classroom, practical classroom activities, and teaching techniques.
- [Shaping the Way We Teach English](#) – This is a professional development webinar series that covers a broad range of teaching tools, strategies, and resources. This has been renamed the American English Webinar Series.

- [Publications](#) – The American English website houses a wide variety of publications that can be used by teachers as classroom materials or for student self-study.

Internet Archive – archive.org/index.php

The Internet Archive contains a collection of multimedia resources accessible from a search field on the home page. Much of the material is community-based, so quality and usefulness can vary. However, it also contains a variety of materials from museums, universities, and the U.S. Library of Congress.

- [American Libraries](#) – The Internet Archive has an extensive list of resources from a series of American libraries. Although some of the material can be dated, it contains materials suitable for a wide variety of topics.
- [Audio Books and Poetry](#) – This section of the Internet Archive contains audio versions of classic books and poems that can be downloaded or streamed. The web links to the streaming audio are well suited for embedding into Hot Potatoes activities.
- [Radio Programs](#) – Containing a wide variety of radio programs, this section of the Internet Archive is a great resource to share with students who are using Audacity for podcasting. The radio programs featured on the site can serve as models for students interested in creating their own radio programs.

MIT Open Courseware – ocw.mit.edu/index.htm

MIT Open Courseware is a website hosting course materials from over 2200 courses taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- [Audio/Video Lectures](#) – This section of the website collates a variety of individual lectures on a wide variety of topics. These lectures may be too advanced for lower-level learners but could be integrated into Hot Potatoes activities for more advanced learners.
- [Online Textbooks](#) – A collection of textbooks used by MIT courses, these books are all open sources and available for use by teachers and for students' self-study. However, these materials may be too advanced or too specific for all but the highest-level learners.

Open Culture – openculture.com

Open Culture is a website that collates free and open-source online materials. The website contains links to audiobooks, movies, online courses, as well as textbooks and foreign language materials. Consider Open Culture a table of contents for materials with this content being housed on other websites.

- [Language Lessons](#) – This section of Open Culture contains links to a variety of language learning materials including English.
- [Online Courses](#) – Each of the links in this collection connects to an online course or its materials. Many of the links are to complete online courses; however some are only audio or videos so be sure to preview the materials before using them in class.

Project Gutenberg – gutenberg.org

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- [Audio Books Project](#) – Project Gutenberg has done extensive work on providing audio versions of the books available. The audiobooks are divided into human-read and computer-read so if looking for authentic pronunciation and speaking be sure to search the human-read books.
- [Book Search](#) – The best place to begin on Project Gutenberg, this page organizes the site’s material into ‘bookshelves’ categorized by topic and language.
- [CD and DVD Project](#) – This feature of the Project Gutenberg website makes all the books on the site available as a downloadable file that can be burned to a CD or DVD for schools or classrooms without an Internet connection.