

WELCOME TO THE

The Reference Point

THE LIBRARY'S MONTHLY FACULTY NEWSLETTER

Stats snapshot

April 2026 stats:

2930 People through the doors

428 Questions answered

3483 Searches conducted

8 Consultations conducted

321 Course Guide views

WHAT'S NEW:

Thorium Reader

Ebsco, one of the Library's major database vendors, recently changed the software required to download and read eBooks offline to Thorium Reader.

Why the change? This new software provides better accessibility, and is compliant with recent changes to accessibility standards.

How does this impact you? There are no changes to reading online. However, for e-books published under certain licenses, you will be prompted to download Thorium Reader.

Use our [tutorial](#) to learn how to download and use it!

FEATURED:

Alexander Street Academic Video Online

Did you know the Library has video streaming databases? We subscribe to [Alexander Street](#), the most comprehensive video subscription available to libraries. With over 87,000 videos spanning subject areas such as business, health, technology, history, and much more, this database is a great resource for video content for your courses.

Access the database through the Library's [A-Z Database List](#).

OPEN ACCESS CORNER:

Evaluating Open Educational Resources (OERs)

OERs, or Open Educational Resources, are learning, teaching and research materials that are in the public domain or are published under an open access license. As they aren't always produced by traditional publishers, they may not be put through the same editorial or peer-review processes - so how can we be sure an OER is high quality?

There are seven aspects to consider when looking at an OER: alignment to course objectives, explanation of subject matter, ease of use for both students and faculty, quality of assessments, quality of practice exercises, technological interactivity, and opportunities for deeper learning. UNF's OER working group is developing a rubric for evaluating OERs - in the meantime, [this rubric from Achieve.org](#) may be helpful!

OERs should also be compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) to ensure equal access. As digital resources, OER accessibility can be evaluated using Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) - try their [checklist](#)!

READ MORE:

Check out these rubrics for more guidance on evaluating OERs: [Faculty Guide for Evaluating Open Educational Resources](#) by BC Campus, [Open Textbooks Review Criteria](#) by Open Textbook Library, and [OER Evaluation Criteria](#) by Affordable Learning Georgia

References:

- *Evaluating Open Educational Resources*. (n.d.). George Brown Polytechnic. <https://www.georgebrown.ca/teaching-and-learning-exchange/teaching-resources/digital-and-online-teaching/open-educational-resources-oer-and-open-pedagogy/evaluating-open-educational-resources>
- *Open Educational Resources*. (n.d.). UNESCO. <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources?hub=785>

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Faculty Resources](#)
- [A-Z Database List](#)
- [Search the Library](#)
- [OER Guide](#)
- academics@unfc.ca

IMPORTANT FORMS

- [Request a Research Skills Session](#)
- [Request a Research Consultation](#)
- [Request a Writing Skills Session](#)
- [Request a Purchase](#)