

Open Educational Resources Portal

Taken from [Higher Learning Magazine](#)

March - April 2006

The effort to share information continues to evolve in the post-secondary arena, and the Internet is a proven efficient and affordable means to facilitate this development. Thanks to this kind of advancement, those living in areas with limited learning opportunities now have the chance to learn from top institutions worldwide. Launched at the [World Summit on the Information Society](#) in November 2005, the Open Educational Resources portal will give anyone with an Internet connection access to free high-quality educational materials online. Individuals living in developing regions will now have the opportunity to learn what other students worldwide have been enjoying for decades. The hope is that the portal will facilitate more equal access to education, and help give individuals a chance at a better life and future.

The portal was launched by the [Development Gateway Foundation](#) and the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#). A number of institutions have signed on to share their course content on the portal, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ([MIT](#)), the [John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#) and [China Open Resources for Education](#).

The Hewlett Foundation has also announced a \$900,000 grant to the Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA) initiative. This resource bank of educational materials is intended to train teachers in areas of learning such as literacy, numeracy and science. TESSA is led by the [African Virtual University](#) and the [Open University](#), and is a consortium of African and international organizations.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is providing the funding for TESSA and the Open Educational Resources portal. The Foundation supports other Open Educational Resource projects, including MIT's [OpenCourseWare](#), a program that shares the school's course materials online, free of charge, to users. For more information, please visit www.hewlett.org/grants.