# Open Expansion: Connecting the Open Access, Open Data and OER Dots

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## Summary Statement

Over the past decade, a handful of key developments have caused scholars and researchers to rethink not only the way they conduct their work, but also the way in which they communicate about it to others. The advent of the Internet provided unprecedented opportunities for immediate, cost effective global connectivity, opening up new possibilities for collaboration and communication. This has resulted in scholarship increasingly being conducted in the online environment, and a vast amount of new digital information being generated and made widely available to those interested in using it. Additionally, the Internet has continued to be a dynamic environment, with new channels for producing and sharing information in a myriad of formats emerging frequently.

In higher education, the momentum of the burgeoning movement towards "open" sharing of information of all kinds continues to gain traction. In particular, advancements in the areas of open access to articles, data, and educational resources are increasingly visible on our campuses. In all three of these areas, academic and research libraries are playing important, central roles in promoting the awareness of the potential costs and benefits of a more open research and education environment, as well as defining new roles for libraries in this digital environment.

As this push for grater openness continues, these three fronts are intersecting in interesting and potentially transformative ways. The Open Access, Open Educational Resources and Open Data movements share fundamental philosophical commonalities that would seem to make collaboration among the movements a natural outcome. All three movements place a premium on reducing barriers to discovering and accessing pertinent digital information. Perhaps even more significantly, all three movements explicitly recognize that enabling productive use – and reuse – of digital information is key to unlocking its full value. As a result of these shared priorities, the three movements also share a multitude of common strategies, presenting new opportunities for deeper collaboration to take place.

This talk will explore what is happening in these "open" movements from both a practical and policy standpoint; how this might directly impact academia, the research community, and especially, libraries, and pose some thoughts on where the larger "open" movement might be headed.

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