

AI-Supported Curation of Zero Cost Course Materials for a New Instructor

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Learning Objectives

- 1) Describe the pedagogical value of incorporating podcasts and video alongside traditional course readings;
- 2) Explain how multimodal resources support Universal Design for Learning and undergraduate engagement; and
- 3) Apply a scale-able approach for expanding course materials beyond a single-textbook model while reducing student costs.



The Faculty Need



- Dr. Billops, a new instructor, needed materials for two special education administration courses and was interested in emerging formats (textbooks and podcasts) aligned with standards.
- Met with Brad to discuss syllabus, standards, and priorities for course materials (diversity of voices, accessibility, no-cost).
- Brad made initial recommendations and brought in LuMarie for OER experience and AI-supported evaluation.

I was initially hesitant...AI recommendations feel generic...but this process significantly reduced the time required for manual research. --Dr. Kaitlyn Billops

Ideal Workflow



Resources Included in our Review

Instructor Provided

- Mi Department of Education Standards and Elements for Special Education Administrator License

Librarian Provided

- Podcasts (Google, YouTube, Spotify, Rankings list)
- Ebooks (Academic monographs in the library collection)
- OER Textbooks (Open Textbook Library, MERLOT)

This was a course where there wasn't a go-to OER text, so we had to get creative. --LuMarie Guth



AI Analysis

Where AI* Succeeded

Aligning human-provided descriptions with course elements (including table of contents)

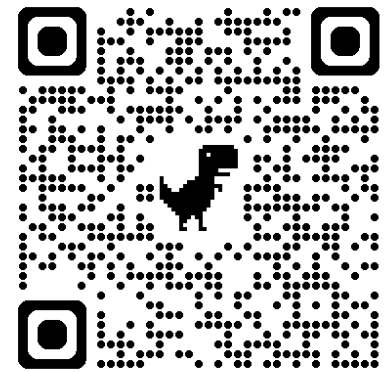
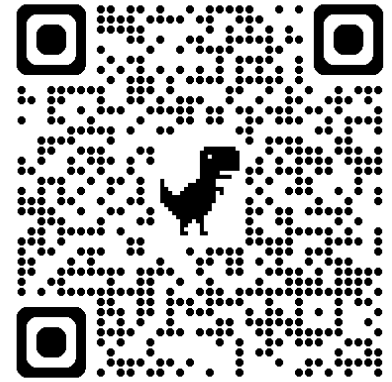
Evaluation and prioritization: Relevancy ranking (out of 10), with pros and cons

Gap analysis

Where AI Failed

Source discovery, especially for OER: some titles were hallucinated, and other titles existed but were not OER.

Aligning and evaluating without human-provided descriptions



*ChatGPT Plus conducted August 2025

Why Multiple Formats Matter

Access from Day 1

- OER in this case means free to students
- Available on any device, anywhere

Accessibility

- Screen readers (high BLV population at WMU)
- Easier to translate or simplify with AI

Learning Flexibility (UDL)

- Multiple formats (text + audio) support different learning preferences

Broader Perspectives

- Podcast and video bring in practitioner and diverse voices
- Textbooks alone may not



Final Materials and Outcomes

Materials Selected

- **Commercial ebooks in WMU library collection**
- **Special Ed Strategist Podcast (YouTube)**
- Government sources (Mi Dept. Of Ed, Office of Special Ed.; U.S. Dept of Ed., IDEA)
- Videos (YouTube, various academic sources)
- Open learning modules (IRIS, Vanderbilt Univ.)
- OA articles

Outcomes

- Course materials were fully aligned with outcomes and assessment (QM-based review)
- Course launch delayed due to curriculum timeline; materials prepared for future implementation



Lessons Learned

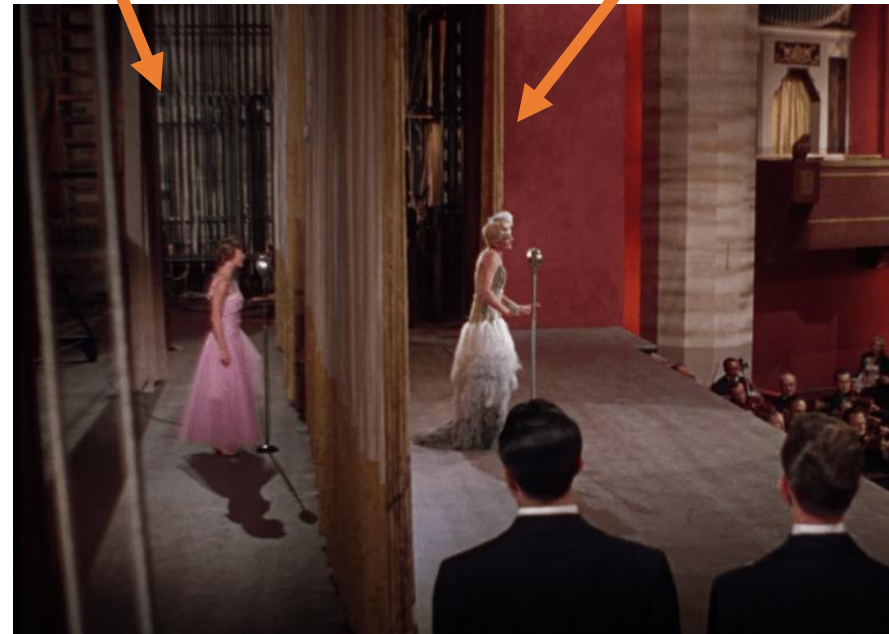
1. Use but verify
2. AI tools vary by task (discovery vs evaluation)
3. Human-provided context leads to better outcomes
4. AI can look effortless, but there is **hidden labor** behind the curtain

I didn't realize how much prompt refinement happened. --Brad Dennis



librarian gathering
source vetting
prompt refinement
course context
instructor expertise

polished AI recommendations



Questions and Contact

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