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FRE 202: Intermediate French II: Language and Culture OER Curation

Matt Ruen
Grand Valley State University, ruenm@gvsu.edu

Chealsye Bowley
Grand Valley State University, bowleyc@gvsu.edu

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Overview

Scope Notes

The faculty member requested OER to support an intermediate French language course, and is already using a significant number of open and free materials, including the faculty member's own materials. The instructor is hoping for materials with more information about the Francophone world, especially about inclusive language (*écriture inclusif* or *langage inclusif*) in French. Material about inclusive language in the English-speaking world is also helpful as context.

Current textbooks and materials

Current materials used in the course are largely instructor-created, open, or free resources. Based on the syllabus, many of the materials are shared as handouts in class. Students are not required to purchase any textbook.

Search Notes

This search encompassed OER Commons, the Open Textbook Library, Merlot, the OASIS OER search tool, the Directory of Open Access Books, and Google Group archives for the CCCOER and Open Education Network listservs.



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This was a challenging search in general, and there were few exact fits with the faculty member's requests—apart from one late and very notable exception, listed first below. Additionally, the search relied on a combination of Google's automated translations and the searcher's barely-remembered fragments of undergraduate French, which may have limited the scope of searching native French and Francophone sources.

Gap Analysis

Intermediate and advanced French language learning OER are comparatively rare, at least in collections supported from the English-speaking world. Some of this gap may reflect the nature of advanced language learning as a student moves from artificial textbook materials to current materials by and for native speakers of the language. There also appear to be many opportunities for ancillary OER focused on the broader Francophone world beyond France itself.

Promising Options

CITOYEN.NE.S

- Annabelle Dolidon, CITOYEN.NE.S: Conversation en Français (Portland State University, 2021)
- ["CITOYEN.NE.S: Conversation en Français" - PDX Open.](#)
- PDF and Microsoft Word
- CC BY-NC
- This brand new OER (published online September 30, 2021) is very well aligned with the faculty member's request. A text for intermediate and advanced French learning, *CITOYEN.NE.S* is "built around the concepts of diversity, inclusivity and equity," and is explicitly written to model *écriture inclusive*. Chapters include activities, readings, and vocabulary lists, and the book touches on topics of health care, work, and culture.

The author manages a Google site with additional instructor materials and answer keys for exercises. Access to these materials is available by emailing the author; details are provided on the book's landing page, linked above.

Guidelines for an inclusive language in French

- United Nations (undated, accessed 2021-10-27)
- [NATIONS UNIES Le langage inclusif](#)
- Online
- Freely available but not open; all rights reserved
- Materials developed by the United Nations to support gender-inclusive communication in all six member languages, including general guidelines and additional tools. The information appears fairly straightforward, but could illustrate one high-profile way that

inclusive language appears in practice. Comparing the French guidelines with the [equivalent materials in English](#) might offer an interesting opportunity for learning.

The importance of using inclusive language [English]

- Fahad Saeed, *The importance of using inclusive language* (TEDxCopenhagen, 2019)
- [Fahad Saeed: The importance of using inclusive language](#)
- Video; English language TED Talk
- CC BY-NC-ND
- A relatively brief overview of the value of inclusive language, with emphasis on the speaker's personal experiences. The content extends beyond gender inclusivity, and may be useful background for lessons on *écriture inclusif* or *langage inclusif*.

Language around gender and identity evolves (and always has) [English]

- Archie Crowley, *Language around gender and identity evolves (and always has)* (TEDxUofSC, 2020)
- [Language around gender and identity evolves \(and always has\)](#)
- Video; English language TEDx talk
- CC BY-NC-ND
- The speaker applies a sociolinguistic perspective to inclusive language, highlighting the constant evolution of all languages. Potentially useful as English-language context to frame discussions of inclusive language practices in French.

Exercices de français pour étrangers

- Unknown creator. Possibly the Belgian Ministry of Education, according to the [metadata for this item in Merlot](#), but there's no clear evidence of that on the site itself.
- [Exercices de français](#)
- Online; audio, text, and video
- Freely available but not open
- A collection of short activities and exercises built around movie trailers, news reporting, song excerpts, and other short multimedia works. Potentially useful in support of the course's Student Learning Outcomes, which focus on exploring other cultures and ways of life.

Stretch Resource Options

French Combined Index

- French Combined Index (Five College Center for World Languages)
- [Five College Center for World Languages](#)
- Online

- Available for free online, but not under a specific license.
- This combined French index covers the Francophone world with examples of French language covered in France, Canada, Luxembourg, Martinique, Morocco, and Senegal. The resource contains text descriptions as well as realistic conversations, such as asking for directions, navigating emergencies, and traveling. Videos for the resource were filmed in 1999-2002, and some elements may be dated due to this fact or not as representative of linguistic changes, such as the section on The Internet.

Boise State Francophone Project

- Taylor Sharp and Emily Blackburn, *Francophone Project* (Boise State University, 2019)
- [The Boise State Francophone Project](#)
- Online, YouTube videos
- Free to access, no license.
- A collection of YouTube videos by native French speakers from Algeria, Ivory Coast, Quebec, and France, describing aspects of their personal lives. (Belgium and Congo are listed as projects, but no videos are linked for either country.) This resource may support the course goals of exploring Francophone culture beyond France.

Résumer, synthétiser, argumenter

- Sylvie Clamageran and Henriette Gezundhajt, *Résumer, synthétiser, argumenter* (eCampus Ontario, 2018)
- [Résumer, synthétiser, argumenter – Pressbooks](#)
- Online, ePub, PDF, e-reader formats
- CC BY-NC-SA
- This text emphasizes argumentative writing, and appears to align with the Student Learning Outcome of critical thinking, identified in the syllabus.

Chansons Françaises

- Kelle Keating and Karen Kelton, *Chansons Françaises* (COERLL, University of Texas - Austin, 2008)
- [chansons françaises :: chapitre préliminaire](#)
- Online; video, audio, and text
- CC BY-NC-ND
- A collection of French-language songs in the form of YouTube videos, ranging from a parody song by the *Flight of the Concords* to Edith Piaf's *La vie en rose*. Each video is accompanied by PDF exercises and activities for learners, as well as brief notes about the performers and their place in the Francophone world. This is potentially well-aligned with the section of the course syllabus focused on music. Note: the materials were developed as a musical component for the 1st-year French OER [Français interactif](#).

Chansons françaises et francophones en cours de FLE

- Aaron Prevots, *Chansons françaises et francophones en cours de FLE* (Southwestern University, updated 2021)
- [Chansons françaises et francophones en cours de FLE / French through Songs and Singing](#)
- Online; text and audio
- Varied, including public domain, free by permission of the artist, and CC-BY-NC-SA recordings by the site creator.
- The site is a collection of French-language songs, including in many cases lyrics, chords, and annotated vocabulary lists. Some also include streaming audio or links to the creator's website with music. Potentially relevant for the section of the course focused on music.

Le Littéraire dans le quotidien

- Joanna Gay Lukes, *Le Littéraire dans le quotidien* (COERLL, 2015).
- [Le Littéraire dans le quotidien - Open Textbook Library](#)
- PDF, online, hardcopy
- CC BY
- "The Literary in the Everyday" open textbook is for use in French courses to present a new pedagogical approach to reading and writing at the lower level. Users of the open text have provided feedback that the resource does accomplish providing a new, "literary-infused" way to develop their reading and writing skills in French. However, supplemental texts will likely be required by many instructors in order to detail grammatical concepts. Elements of this OER may support the course objectives to interpret authentic texts and engage with French culture.

Genre, sexualité & société

- Genre, sexualité & société (Institute de Géographie, 2021).
- [Genre, sexualité & société](#)
- Online open access journal
- CC BY-NC-ND
- This open access journal is published in the French language. Not all articles will be applicable for the classroom, but one example article with the keyword 'gender identity' was discovered during the OER search and may be relevant. The article is: [Le sujet juridique homosexuel et transgenre dans la jurisprudence de la Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme.](#)

French Language OER (REL) Collections

Paroles d'expert

- Paroles d'expert (Le Ministère de l'Éducation, 2021).
- enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr
- Online
- License: not applicable, multiple resources listed and vary in licensing
- This is a self-directed learning resources made available by the French government. Nothing leaps out as relevant when searched for "inclusif," but a French expert might know more keywords and search terms that would provide good results. Additionally, language expertise would help in reading the descriptions of items. This is likely a rich resource of potentially useful OER for French courses.

REL Library Guide

- Trouver des Ressources Éducatives Libres - REL, (Université de Montréal, 2020).
- Source: <https://bib.umontreal.ca/guides/types-documents/rel?tab=3257>
- Online
- License: not applicable, multiple resources listed and vary in licensing
- Guide created from the University of Montreal Library (offered in both French and English) on REL (OER). The guide overviews options to locate REL (OER) both from Canadian outlets, as well as from the United States and other international resources.