A Brief History of
OPEN EDUCATION

1998
David Wiley suggests applying the concept of open source software development to open licensing for educational content and coins the term Open Content, now known as Open Educational Resources (Wiley, 2006).

2001
Wikipedia is launched, marking a significant step forward in the Openness Movement, which advocates access to information and collaboration (Shin, 2017).

2002
MIT Open Courseware offers free online MIT courses, inspiring many other institutions to follow suit (Cormier & Siemens, 2010). That year, the **Creative Commons** (CC n.d.) is launched and **Budapest Open Access Initiative** (BOIA, n.d.) advocates an open publishing model and calls it Open Access.
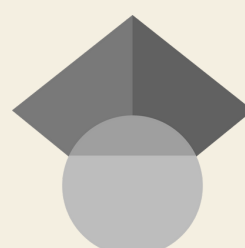
2003
The **Directory of Open Access Journals** is launched by Lund University as a database of peer-reviewed open access journals (DOAJ, n.d.).
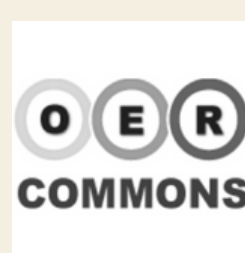
2004
Google Scholar is created, offering a search engine for scholarly publications that helps researchers to locate full text articles and abstracts, furthering access to information in education (Levy, 2014).
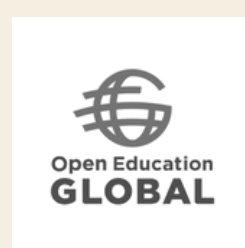
2007
OER Commons launches, providing a free online library of instructional materials (OER Commons, n.d.). The same year, authors of the **Cape Town Open Education Declaration** urge governments and publishers to make publicly funded educational materials freely available online (Cape Town Declaration, n.d.).

2008
Open Education Global is founded (known as Open Courseware Consortium at the time), leading to a cascade of national-scale open education initiatives across the globe (Open Education Global, n.d.).

2009
University of the People makes history as the first tuition-free, online university (United Nations News, 2009).

2010
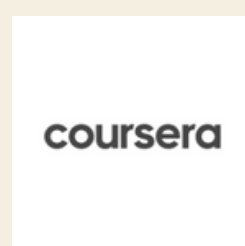**UVA Faculty Senate** votes unanimously in favor of Open Access by passing a resolution encouraging open access scholarship (UVA Library, 2010).

2012
Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) gain popularity with the founding of Coursera (Coursera, n.d.) and edX (edX, n.d.).

2018
The State of Virginia passes a law stating that public institutions of higher education must implement guides for using low-cost and no-cost open educational resources (Virginia.gov, 2018).

2019
The State of Virginia passes a law stating that public institutions of higher education must identify courses that use no-cost or low-cost course materials in the course catalog or registration system (Virginia.gov, 2019).

2020
James Madison University Libraries hires an **Open Education Librarian** to help faculty find and create open educational resources and advocate for open education at JMU and beyond.

JMU Libraries