

# COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

A SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR  
LEARNING RESOURCES

## AN OER ADOPTION SUCCESS STORY

*“The transition to OER presented its challenges; however, **Sylla** has been the catalyst that accelerated our progression toward a sustainable, student-centred model. Supported by an institution-wide campaign, the shift has been smoother than anticipated, met with less resistance, and has delivered a significantly greater impact than expected.”*



**Dal Badesha**

Head of Learning  
Resources and  
Student Experience



## DRIVING OER SUCCESS AT SCALE

In this partnership, we have worked on 350 modules for which Coventry has seen an OER adoption rate of 70%. These 245 modules have adopted over 1800 OER chapters, now powering their teaching and learning for semester 1 of 2025/2026.



**1800** Chapters  
curated into  
custom readers



**£251,317.39\***  
(82%) in cost  
savings (DLP)



Delivering **60%**  
**less** commercial  
publisher titles as  
course essentials



**11,832** Students  
positively impacted  
(**80% of undergraduate**)

## BACKGROUND

Following a [successful pilot](#) for 16 modules, Coventry University embarked on an ambitious project for its full undergraduate programme, to replace costly textbooks with Open Educational Resources (OER), supported by Sylla's technology platform. The initiative arose from university-wide financial pressures, evolving pedagogical needs, and a commitment to providing essential learning materials to every student at no additional cost.

Coventry University was no stranger to large-scale innovation in learning resources. It had already delivered Europe's largest e-textbook scheme, ensuring that every undergraduate received essential reading materials at no additional cost.

The challenge was clear: reduce expenditure on traditional textbooks while maintaining the promise of quality learning materials for all students.

*\*savings are calculated based on commercial publisher Digital List Price (DLP) pricing against the cost to deliver OER*

## LEADERSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

The project began with strong support from university leadership. Having a clear directive from the top made it easier to secure engagement across faculties. From there, the team designed a communication and engagement strategy that approached OER adoption not as a technical rollout, but as part of a cultural shift towards a more sustainable model for learning resources.

### SETTING THE SCENE

Rather than rely on traditional training sessions — which often suffered from low attendance — the Coventry team created “Discovery Sessions,” inviting academics to explore the possibilities of OER in an open, informal environment.



### “DISCOVER, ADAPT, ENGAGE”

“This project truly shows what’s possible when passionate people and purposeful innovation come together. By combining next-generation technology with the commitment, creativity, and collaboration from the people at Coventry, we turned a bold vision into real, lasting change — improving access, reducing costs, and proving that open education can scale across institutions and borders. What we achieved with Coventry is more than a milestone: **it’s a blueprint for a more open, sustainable, and student-centred future.**”



**Sam Eerdmans**

Director of Business &  
Operations, Sylla

## CLEAR MOTIVATION AND COLLABORATION

While any major institutional change invites challenges, the shift to OER was surprisingly smooth. The university community understood the financial pressures, and the framing of the project as a collective solution to those pressures helped to reduce resistance.

*"Using Sylla for the Business Accounting module has been a very positive experience. I found **Sylla** to be an extremely helpful tool for discovering relevant and high-quality OER materials. In particular, I adopted Principles of Accounting, Volume 1 and 2, both of which aligned very well with the module's learning outcomes and provided excellent coverage of key accounting concepts.*

*The platform is intuitive and easy to use, especially when customising the selected resources to suit the specific needs of the module. Overall, Sylla made the process of integrating OER into the curriculum seamless and effective"*



**Dr Haseeb Ayaz**

Assistant Professor (Teaching) in Accounting  
School of Economics, Finance and Accounting

## LEADING THE WAY

By enabling librarians, academics and the wider university community to collaborate around collective challenges, real change can be realised swiftly. Resulting in broad adoption of OER - using a model that can now be replicated throughout the country.

## THE RESULTS

In this partnership, we have worked on 350 modules for which Coventry has seen an OER adoption rate of 70%. These 245 modules have adopted over 1800 OER chapters, now powering their teaching and learning for semester 1 of 2025/2026.



**~1800** OER chapters have been curated into custom readers, with an average of 8 chapters per module, benefitting from more, richer and diverse content at lower costs.



**60%** of adopted learning resources are now OER-based, expected to rise to 75%+ by the end of the academic year



**245** modules transformed from using closed to open content for the academic year 2025-2026



**£251,317.39** of total savings representing a 82% saving compared to previous spend\*



**11,832** students have been impacted by this transition to open content - now benefitting **~80% of all undergraduates**



**All 11,832 students continue to have access to their essential learning resources at no additional cost**

*\*savings are calculated based on commercial publisher Digital List Price (DLP) pricing against the cost to deliver OER*



## LOOKING AHEAD SUPPORTING THE UK HE SECTOR

During challenging times for the sector, this collaboration demonstrates for the entire UK that a more sustainable approach to learning resources is feasible - one where students are not asked to pay out of pocket, and where OER is at the forefront of powering the next generation of teaching and learning.

*"Adopting high-quality OER at scale has transformed access to essential learning resources for our students and delivered significant, sustainable savings for the institution. Now is the ideal opportunity for the sector to collaborate in expanding OER collections, enabling every student to benefit from affordable, adaptable, and inclusive content."*



**Phil Brabban**

Chief Librarian and Group  
Director of Learning Resources

This works serves as a blueprint to build on. Showing libraries and universities that improving affordability while providing students with access can be done - we're here to help you shape your own policies, identify starting points, quick wins and how to engage academics in affecting change. Moving forward we will be working with the sector to deepen success while in parallel start addressing critical gaps where no OER exist and expand the open content pool based on curricular needs - Bringing new types of collaborations between libraries, academics and publishers to life.

## LEARN MORE

Would you like to learn more about how **Sylla** can support open and affordable learning at your institution? Get in touch to book a demo.



[Book a demo](#)

Find out more about **Sylla** here:  
<https://www.sylla.io>