



## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BIOLOGY TEACHING AND RESEARCH AID IN ETHIOPIA

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### Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is now playing an important role to support teaching and dissemination of knowledge. ICT has virtually revolutionized the teaching and learning process globally. Ethiopia has witnessed the development of ICTs in various sectors over the last decade including education. With the spread of Internet it is now possible to assess all kinds of teaching and research information of unbelievable proportions. Internet now provides a variety of resources for all users. Although the classroom lectures continue to be used as the primary method of teaching biology. The lectures that used to be primarily chalk and blackboard have now started incorporating multimedia resources to enhance teaching and complement demonstration. Video presentation makes it easier to explain complicated topics in biology. It is now possible to show many real time action & reactions and three-dimensional models of atoms and molecules moving freely in space. Though Internet offers rich sources of potential teaching aid that can be used to enhance the classroom teaching, it is often too challenging for anyone to filter out the high quality useful information from the Internet. Special skills are required to fish out required information from the Internet. In this article some useful websites that provide quality information on biology and which may aid in the e-learning process are discussed. In the coming year's ICT is going to play a key role in enhancing and providing sustainable quality education in schools and colleges in Ethiopia. Hence, urgent attention should be given to strengthen the infrastructure facilities, training of teachers and implementation of ICT-related teaching models that encourage learning processes by use of ICT. Emphasis must also be placed on the pedagogy beside the use of ICT.

**Key Words:** Biology Teaching Resources, e-learning, Ethiopia, ICT, OER.