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## WEB SCAN

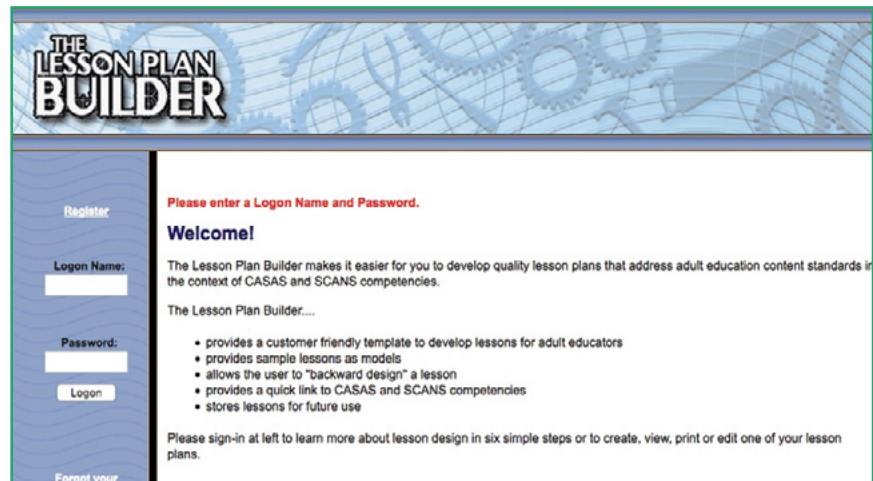


*Reviewed by  
David J. Rosen*

*Newsome Associates*

## Lesson Plan Building and Sharing Tools

These free website tools are for teachers who want to efficiently create high-quality lesson plans, and share lessons or learning activities with their students or with other teachers. Some of these tools were specifically designed for teachers of adult basic skills, including English for immigrants; others were designed for K-12 teachers, but may also be useful for adult basic skills teachers.

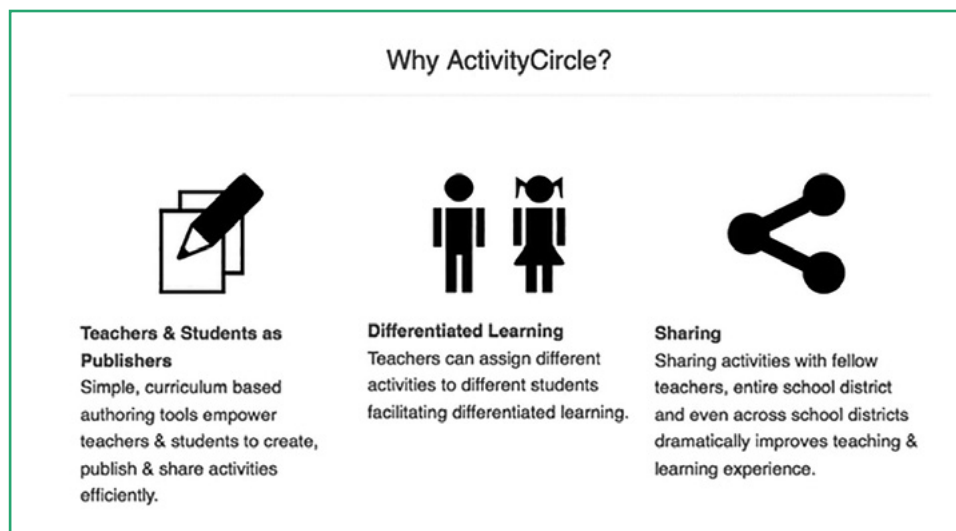


### The Lesson Plan Builder

OTAN, the adult education and technology professional development organization for California, offers this document on how to use its Lesson Plan Builder tool at <https://www.otan.us/training/pdfs/2007CreatingLessonsOnline.pdf>. Any teacher or tutor, not only those in California, can use it by registering on the OTAN website (free) [www.otan.us/](http://www.otan.us/), then going to <http://lessonplanbuilder.org>. The Lesson Plan Builder is based on the WIPPEA model, which includes these parts: Warm-up, Introduction, Presentation, Practice, Evaluation, and Application.

## PBS Learning Media Lesson Builder

This simple, free lesson plan creation tool includes an introduction for students, a sequence of content slides from PBS Learning Media or content of one's own, and a formative assessment with true/false, multiple choice, short answer, fill in the blank, or essay questions: <http://pbslearningmedia.org/tools/lessonbuilder/>. Lessons are saved to the PBS Learning Media website. A short "how-to" video will be found at <http://pbslearningmedia.org/tools/lessonbuilder/new/#>



## Activity Circle

<https://www.activitycircle.com/>

With this free tool teachers can create activities and differentiate them for individual students' needs; they can search the Activity Circle database for others' lesson plans, and adapt them using the Pro feature; they can assign lessons to students for desktop or laptop computers, or through an iPad app; and they can share with other teachers the lesson plans they have created. Teachers are provided with regular updates on their students' progress. The website provides video assistance throughout the process.

## OER Commons

OER Commons, an extensive free, searchable database of Open Education Resource (OER) lesson plans and learning resources, offers two lesson-building templates:

**Open Author.** Teachers can build and share open educational resources (OER) such as courses, units, lessons, activities and presentations. They can combine text, pictures, sound, files and video. They can save these as openly licensed educational resources, and share them with their colleagues or with other teachers from around the world.

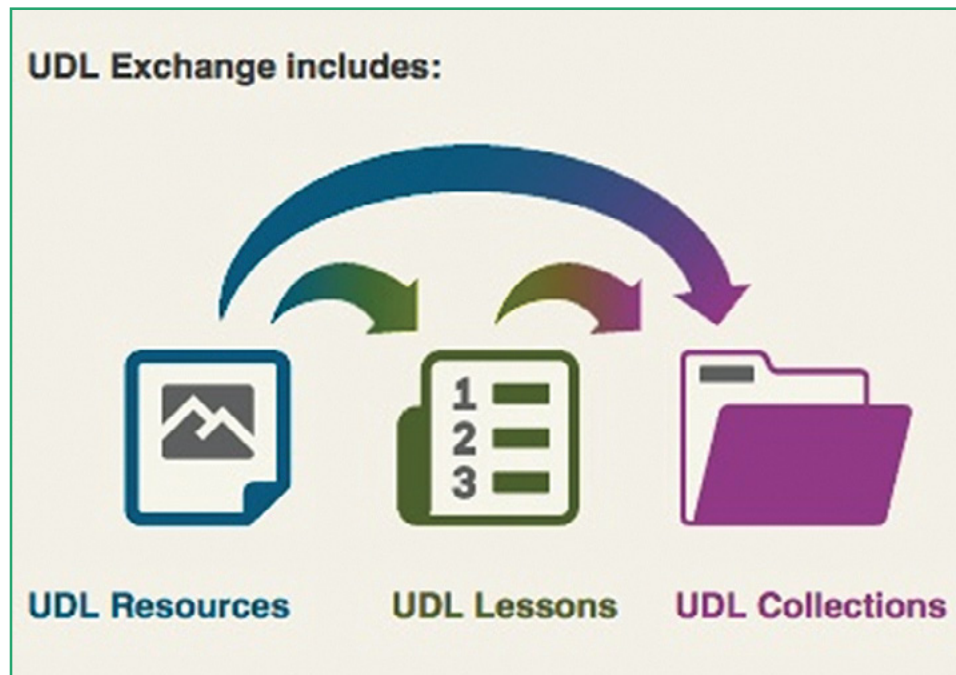
<https://www.oercommons.org/authoring/3159-open-author/view>

**Lesson Builder.** Teachers can create learning resources that are viewable by students as lessons, and by teachers as lesson plans, and that are saved to the OER Commons server. They can use Lesson Builder to

make an OER textbook of lessons for their students. OER Commons offers a simple video explaining how to use this tool at <http://www.oercommons.org/courses/open-textbooks-using-oer-commons-lesson-builder-tool/view>

### CAST UDL Exchange

<http://udlexchange.cast.org/home>



UDL Exchange offers a free tool for creating and sharing lessons that include Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. CAST describes UDL as “a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.” Using the tool, teachers can attach resources from UDL Exchange, as well as other resources they may choose to create or find for the lesson. In addition to sections including a description of the lesson, prerequisites, and estimated time; the lesson’s potential use, including its purpose, content area(s), and alignment to common core standards; instructional goals and objectives; instructional methods and materials; and formative and summative assessments, the tool includes a section for the author’s reflections where a teacher can consider how the lesson realizes hoped-for universal design or other purposes and goals. Video tutorials for using UDL Exchange can be found at <http://udlexchange.cast.org/lesson/3363619>

**David J. Rosen** is an education consultant in the areas of adult education, technology, and blended learning.