

Integration of Open Educational Resources (OER) with D2L Brightspace

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What is Pressbooks?

Pressbooks is online software that enables authors and publishers to design and format any kind of book, including:

- PDF: for print or print on demand
- EPUB: for Apple iBooks, Nook, Kobo, Kindle and most other ebook platforms
- Webbook: private or public

Pressbooks is used by independent authors, small and medium-sized publishers, and educational institutions worldwide. All book formats are produced using templates that are optimized to look great in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. File exports produced with Pressbooks can be exported and downloaded from Pressbooks and distributed or shared however you like.

What is a Webbook?

Pressbooks webbooks are website versions of a book that are hosted on Pressbooks and can be distributed for free to the public. Many use Pressbooks webbooks to produce and distribute open educational resources (OER). Unlike a PDF or an ebook, a webbook is a live version of your book that doesn't need to be exported or downloaded.

What is a Common Cartridge File (.imscc)?

Common Cartridge is a standard developed by IMS Global to define interoperable packages for use in Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Canvas, D2L, and Blackboard Learn. The Common Cartridge with Web Links export produced by Pressbooks can quickly import each chapter of a public book into a course in your LMS as an embedded external link. It also allows flexibility for adapting the textbook chapters and other resources for faculty who wish to utilize your textbook in their LMS course.

Limitations of a Common Cartridge File

While you do have some flexibility to rearrange chapters or sections of the book within LMS as described above, you cannot edit the contents of the book. Making such edits as changing the text or adding, changing, or removing specific images is impossible because the common cartridge does not make a copy of the book within LMS.

Also, **the availability of course cartridges varies by book**. Not all books on the Pressbooks platform are available as common cartridges. Of course, you can make a request to the publisher of the book to make the common cartridge available in the export option.

Finding and Downloading a Common Cartridge File

If a book on the [Pressbooks Directory](#) or [Open Education Alberta](#) platform is available as a common cartridge, you will find the download link for the file under the book cover image displayed on the book's home page. For example, here is the home page of [Library Research Skills for Psychology Students](#) by Augustana Campus Library.

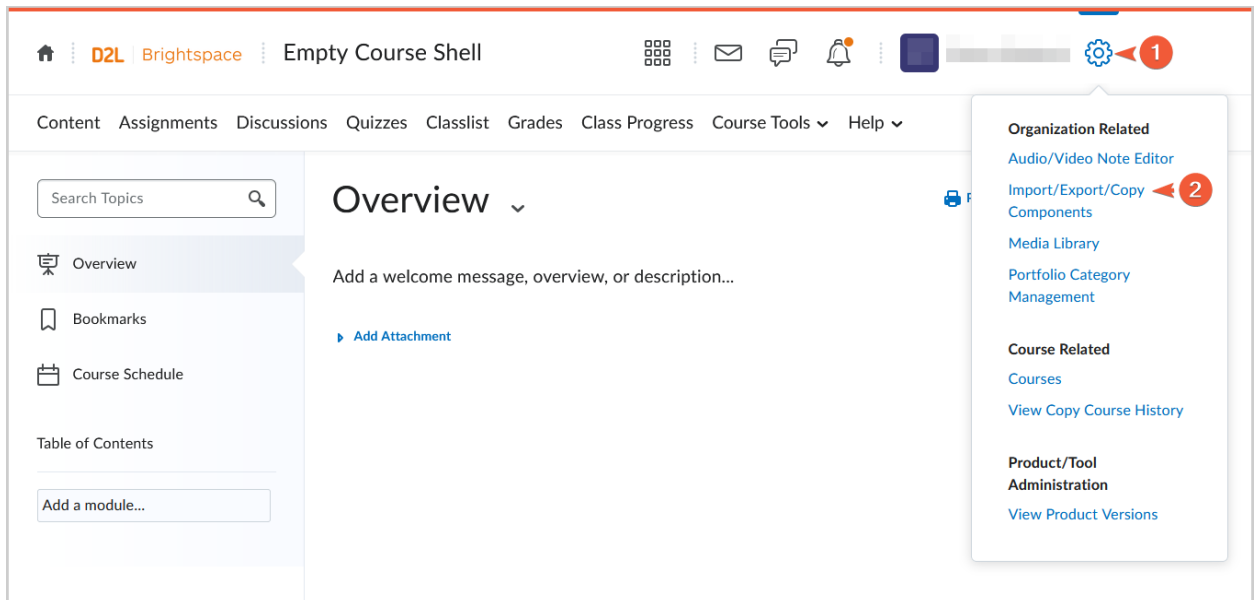
The screenshot shows the book page for "Library Research Skills for Psychology Students" by Kara Blizzard, published by Augustana Campus Library. The page features a dark background with white text. On the right side, there is a book cover image with the University of Alberta logo and the title. Below the cover, a "Download this book" menu is open, listing various export options: EPUB, Digital PDF, Print PDF, XHTML, Pressbooks XML, WordPress XML, and Common Cartridge (Web Links). The "Common Cartridge (Web Links)" option is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow pointing to it. The page also includes Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial ShareAlike license icons, a "READ BOOK" button, and social media sharing icons for X, LinkedIn, and email.

Notice that the last item in the **Download this book** menu under the book cover image is Common Cartridge (Web Links). **Do not use** [Common Cartridge \(LTI Links\)](#) as it requires support from your IT department. Click this selection and save the file to your own computer. The file will have an extension of **.imscc**, which will be designated as an IMS Common Cartridge file.

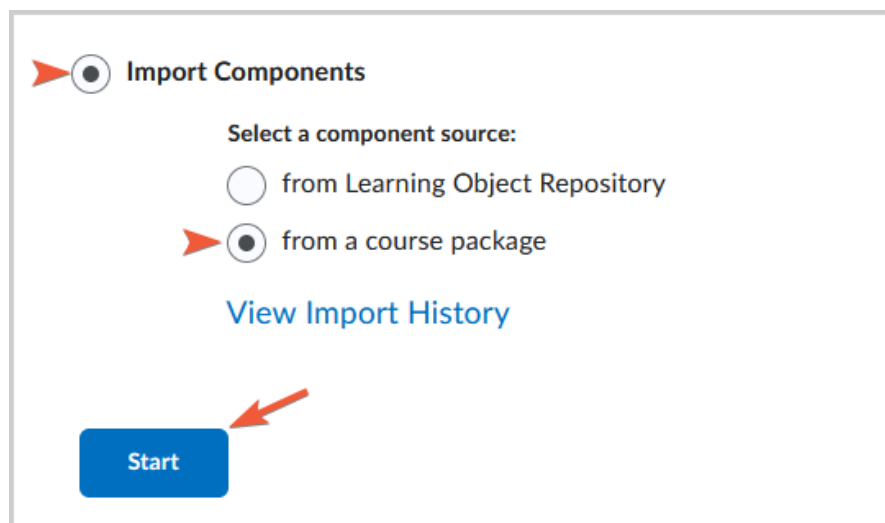
Importing an OER Book into D2L

Steps:

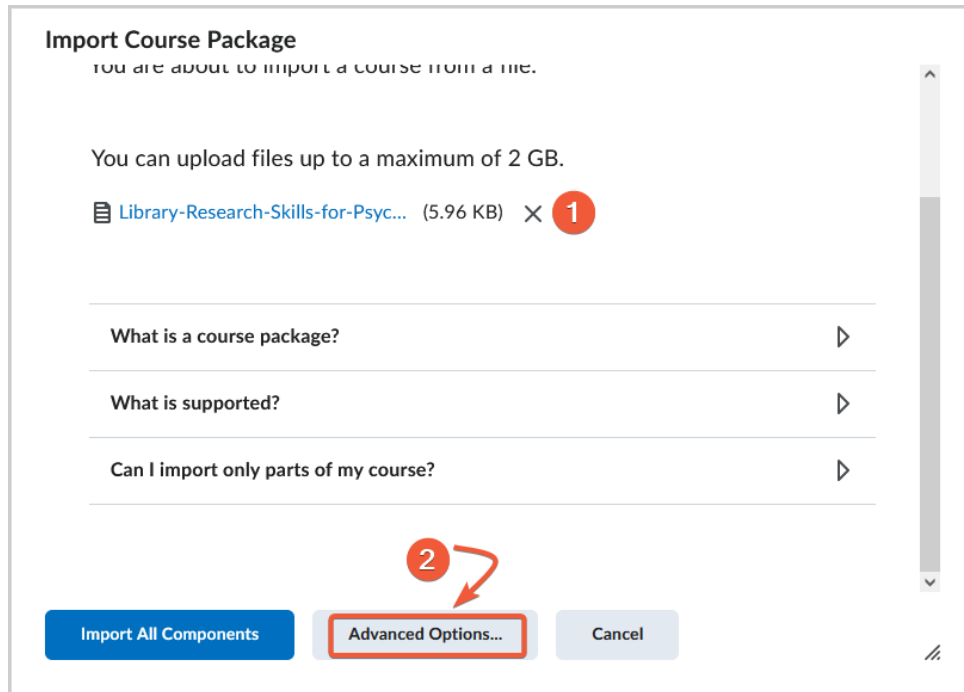
1. Log into D2L Brightspace.
2. Find the required course in your D2L **"Courses"** area. It is advisable to create a **"Sandbox"** or **"Empty Course Shell"** course when attempting this instruction for the first time. Once you are comfortable with the process, you can safely import it into your scheduled course.
3. Select the **"Admin Tools"** (1) under the profile.



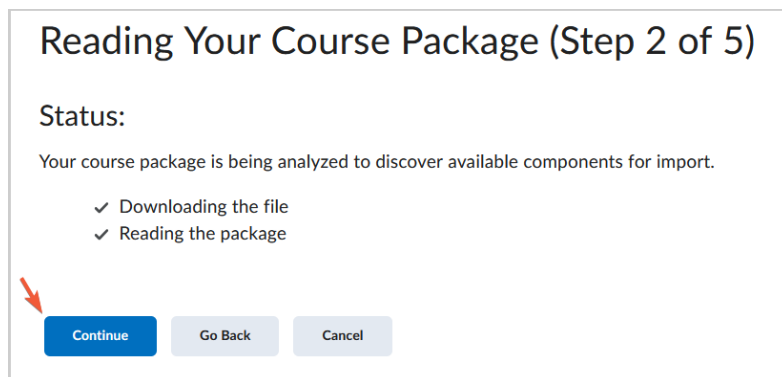
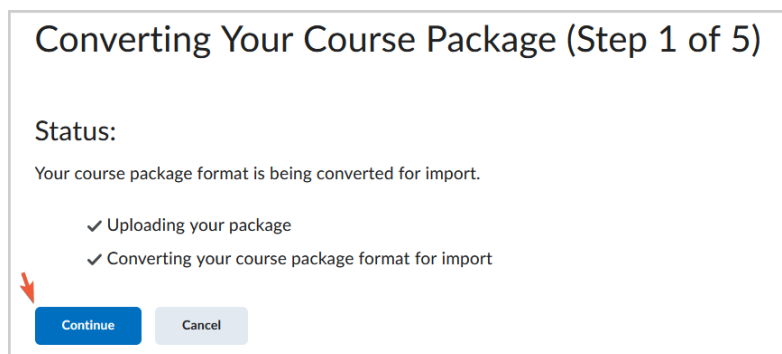
4. Click on **"Import/Export/Copy Components"** (2) on the drop-down menu, select **"Import Components"** and **"From Course Package"**, and click **"Start"**.



5. Select **.imsc** file that you have downloaded from the book **(1)** and then select the “Advanced Options” **(2)**.



6. Click “**Continue**” once the “**Status**” has been completed in Steps 1 and 2.



7. Click **“Select All Components”** (1) under Select Components to Import and then click on **“Select Individual Items to Import”** (2).

Customize Your Course Package (Step 3 of 5)

Select Components to Import

Select All Components **1**

Content (21 item(s)) **2**

- Import all items
- Select individual items to import

External Links (1 item(s))

- Import all items
- Select individual items to import

- In **“Advanced Option”**, **“Do not overwrite the existing file”** (1) and click on **“Continue”** (2).

Advanced Options

Import file to:

/content/enforced/66159-TryNow-C1_I/

[How do I select where to import the file to?](#)

When an existing file is encountered:

- Overwrite the existing file
- Do not overwrite the existing file** **1**

[What happens if I overwrite the file?](#)

Set shared homepage and navbar from import package definition

[What are shared homepages and navbars?](#)

Import metadata

[What is metadata?](#)

Offset all dates of imported components

- Offset by direction and range
- Calculate range between two dates

2

8. Select “**Content Modules and Topics to Import**” (1) and click on “**Continue**” (2). In this step, you can choose to import only the topics and content you need.

Select Content Modules and Topics

Select Content Modules and Topics to Import

Select All
[Expand All](#) [Collapse All](#)

- Back Matter
- Citing Your Sources
 - Using APA Style
- Front Matter
 - Introduction
- Searching for Information
 - Where to Search
- Starting a Research Project
 - Identifying Key Concepts
 - Research Topics & Questions
- Using Citations to Find More Sources
 - Using Citations to Find More Sources
- Using PsycINFO
 - Step 1: Searching for Concepts
 - Step 2: Combining Your Searches
 - Step 3: Limiting Search Results
 - Step 4: Viewing & Accessing Results
 - Step 5: Saving Your Search History
 - Steps for Searching PsycINFO

1

2

9. In Step 4, you are able to “**Confirm Your Selection**” (1) and then click on “**Continue**” (2).

Confirm Your Selections (Step 4 of 5)

Components to Import

Content
16 of 21 item(s) selected to import. [Modify](#) **1**

Advanced Options

Import file to:
/content/enforced/66159-TryNow-C1_I/
[How do I select where to import the file to?](#)

When an existing file is encountered:

Overwrite the existing file
 Do not overwrite the existing file
[What happens if I overwrite the file?](#)

Set shared homepage and navbar from import package definition
[What are shared homepages and navbars?](#)

Import metadata
[What is metadata?](#)

Offset all dates of imported components

Offset by direction and range
 Calculate range between two dates

2

[Continue](#) [Go Back](#) [Cancel](#)

10. Click on "View Content".

Import Course Package

1725482220._1_1_weblinks.imscv"

✓ Uploaded > ✓ Converted > ✓ Imported

Your course package was successfully imported!

Check out the contents of your course and make sure everything is good to go.

[View Processing Logs](#)

View Content Import Another Package Review and Manage Dates

You are able to see the imported contents in your course.

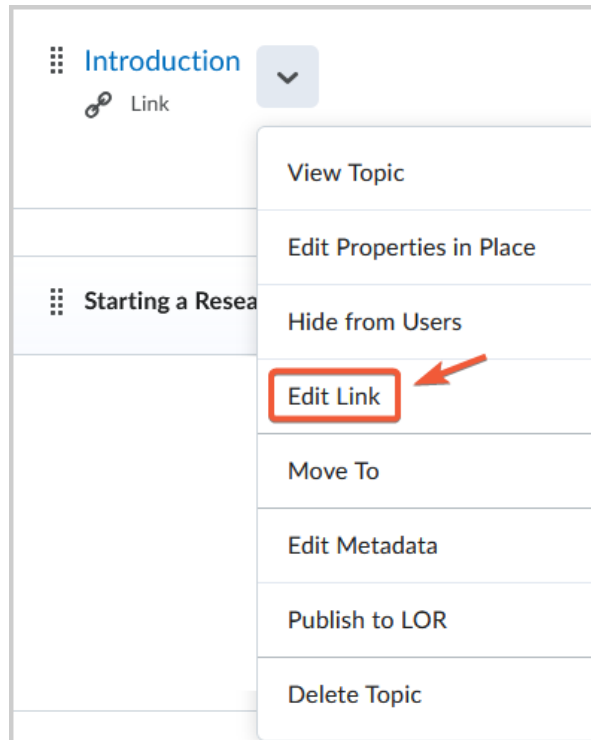
Table of Contents

Print Settings

Import Course Bulk Edit Related Tools Expand All Collapse All

- Front Matter
 - Upload / Create Existing Activities
 - Introduction ✓
Link
- Starting a Research Project
 - Upload / Create Existing Activities
 - Identifying Key Concepts ✓
Link

11. In D2L, all external links will open in a new tab. To embed the book pages in your D2L course, you need to edit each link and disable the “**Open as External Resource**” option. This way, **learners will be able to read the book pages directly within the course without opening a new tab.**



A screenshot of the "Edit Link" dialog box. The "Title" field contains "Introduction". The "URL" field contains "https://pressbooks.openeducationalberta.ca,". Below the URL field, there is a checkbox labeled "Open as External Resource" which is unchecked. A red circle with the number "1" is next to this checkbox. Below the checkbox, the text "User progress is not tracked for external resources" is displayed. At the bottom of the dialog, there is a blue "Update" button and a grey "Cancel" button. A red circle with the number "2" is next to the "Update" button. The dialog also has a close button (X) in the top right corner and a save icon in the bottom right corner.

12. The book pages will now be embedded in the course content area.

The screenshot shows a digital book page titled "Introduction". At the top left, a breadcrumb trail reads "Table of Contents > Front Matter > Introduction", with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the breadcrumb, the page title "Introduction" is displayed with a dropdown arrow. To the right of the title are navigation icons: a search icon, a refresh icon, and left and right arrow buttons, with a red arrow pointing to the right arrow button. A vertical scroll bar is on the far right. The main content area is enclosed in a red border and contains the following text:

Introduction

Welcome to *Library Research Skills for Psychology Students*! This tutorial was designed for undergraduate students in psychology courses at the University of Alberta.

I'm [Kara Blizzard](#), a librarian at the Augustana Campus Library. You are welcome to ask me questions about all kinds of things related to research and the library. Psychology students on North Campus can contact [Virginia Pow](#) for research assistance.

Learning Objectives

As a psychology student, a key part of your role is to find relevant information on the topics you are studying. In this tutorial you will learn how to:

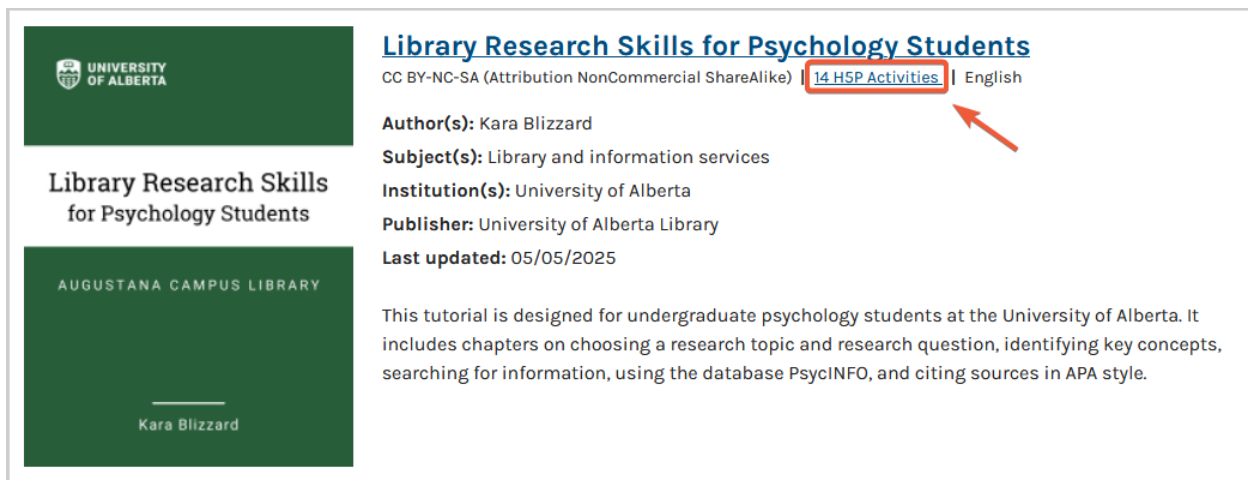
- Choose a topic and form a research question
- Identify the pertinent concepts in your question

Adding H5P Interactivity

Some books include H5P activities to enhance the learning curve for students. Those are available through the book chapters, but if you plan to add them as a grade item to your course, you must follow these steps. Please note that some H5P activities, such as Image Hotspots and Virtual Tours, can not be graded depending on their nature.

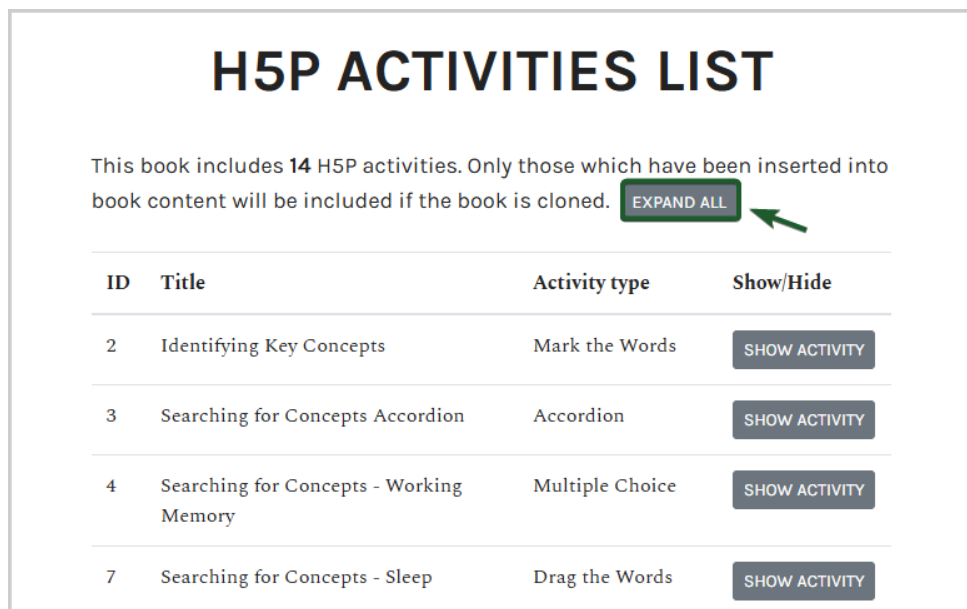
Find and Download H5P Activities

In the Pressbooks Catalogue, locate the book by searching. Click on “# H5P Activities”.



The screenshot shows a book entry for "Library Research Skills for Psychology Students" by Kara Blizzard. The book cover is green with the University of Alberta logo and the Augustana Campus Library logo. The title "Library Research Skills for Psychology Students" is prominently displayed. Below the title, the author's name "Kara Blizzard" is listed. The book is published by the University of Alberta Library and was last updated on 05/05/2025. The book is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA (Attribution NonCommercial ShareAlike). A red box highlights the link "14 H5P Activities" in the top right corner, with a red arrow pointing to it. The book description states: "This tutorial is designed for undergraduate psychology students at the University of Alberta. It includes chapters on choosing a research topic and research question, identifying key concepts, searching for information, using the database PsycINFO, and citing sources in APA style."

Click on “Expand All”.



The screenshot shows the "H5P ACTIVITIES LIST" for the book. The title "H5P ACTIVITIES LIST" is displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, a paragraph states: "This book includes 14 H5P activities. Only those which have been inserted into book content will be included if the book is cloned." A green box highlights the "EXPAND ALL" button, with a green arrow pointing to it. Below the paragraph is a table with four columns: ID, Title, Activity type, and Show/Hide. The table lists five activities:

ID	Title	Activity type	Show/Hide
2	Identifying Key Concepts	Mark the Words	SHOW ACTIVITY
3	Searching for Concepts Accordion	Accordion	SHOW ACTIVITY
4	Searching for Concepts - Working Memory	Multiple Choice	SHOW ACTIVITY
7	Searching for Concepts - Sleep	Drag the Words	SHOW ACTIVITY

Click on “**Reuse**” under each activity and click on “**Download**”. A .h5p file will be saved on your computer.

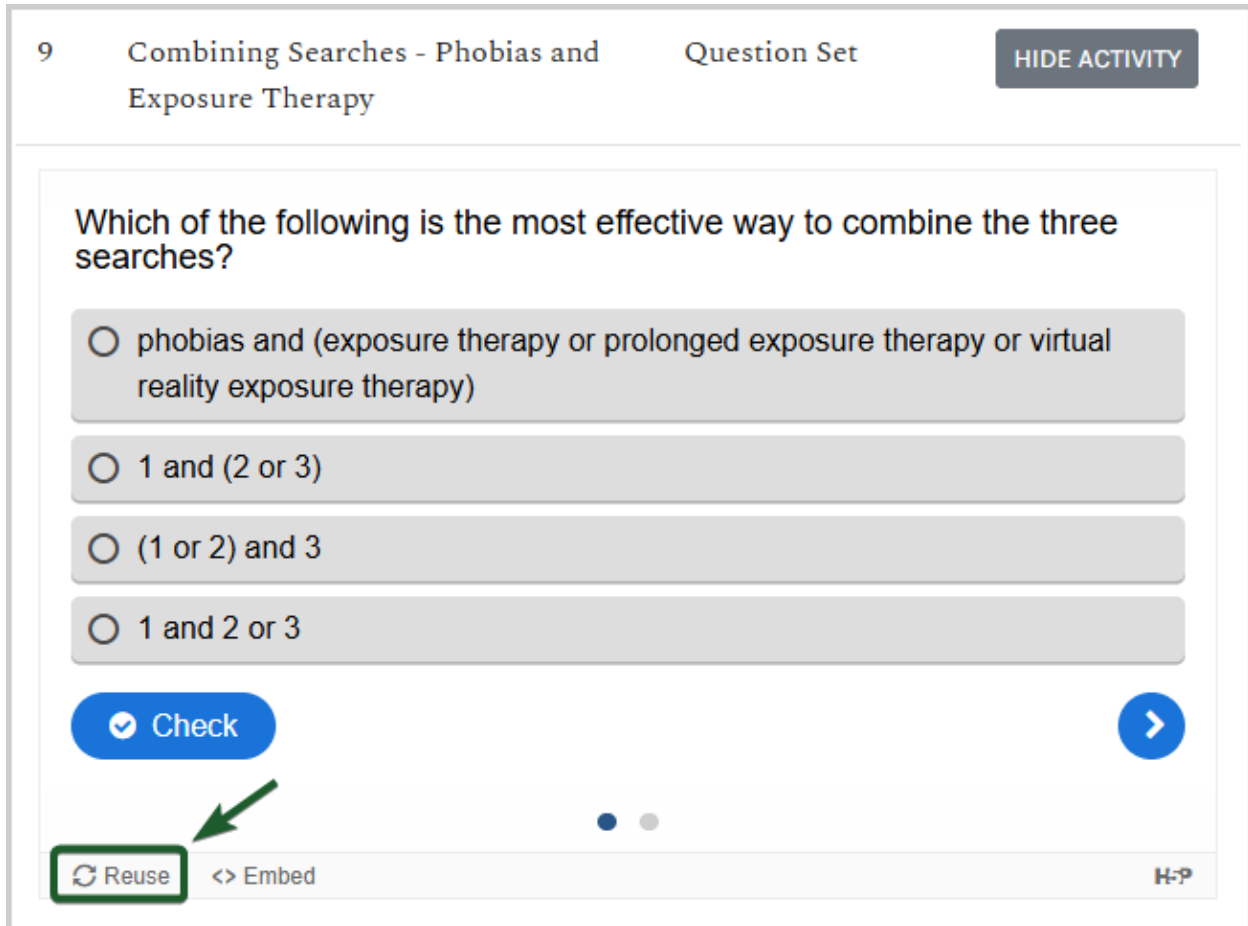
9 Combining Searches - Phobias and Exposure Therapy Question Set HIDE ACTIVITY

Which of the following is the most effective way to combine the three searches?



- phobias and (exposure therapy or prolonged exposure therapy or virtual reality exposure therapy)
- 1 and (2 or 3)
- (1 or 2) and 3
- 1 and 2 or 3

Check >

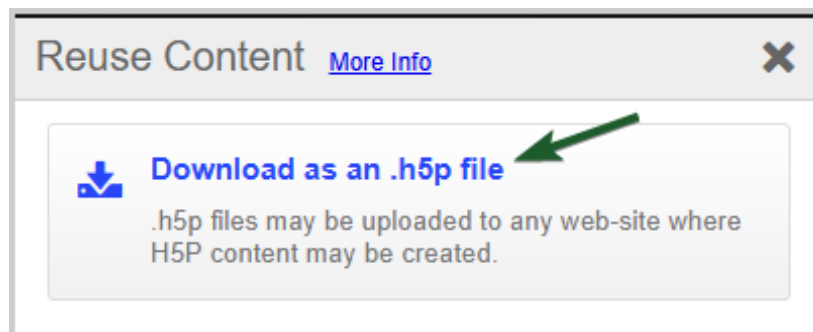
Reuse <> Embed H-P



Reuse Content [More Info](#) ✕

 **Download as an .h5p file** 

.h5p files may be uploaded to any web-site where H5P content may be created.

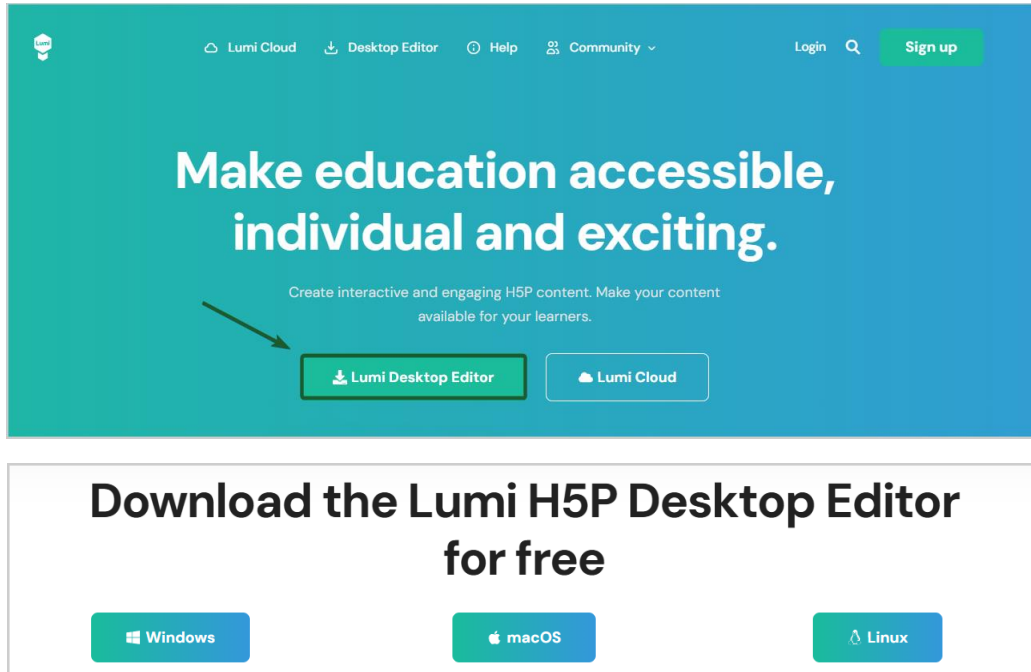


Adding H5P Downloaded File into D2L

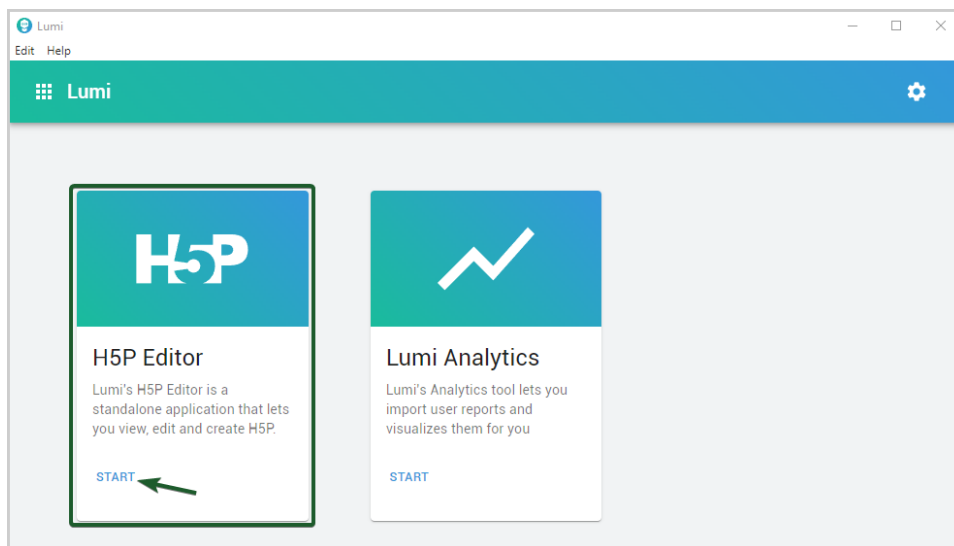
Check with your institution regarding H5P integration with D2L, as you can import [this resource](#) directly into your course.

Also, Users can now use Lumi to convert the native .h5p file or .h5p zip file produced in the previous step into SCORM.

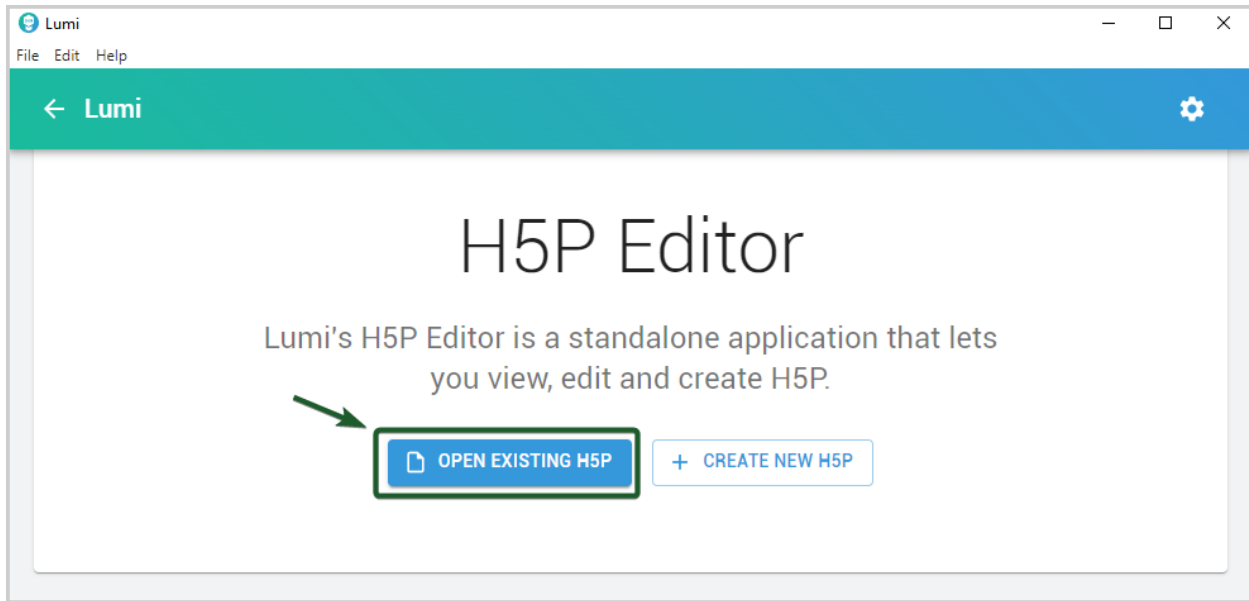
Please visit <https://lumi.education/en/> to download the Lumi Desktop Editor.



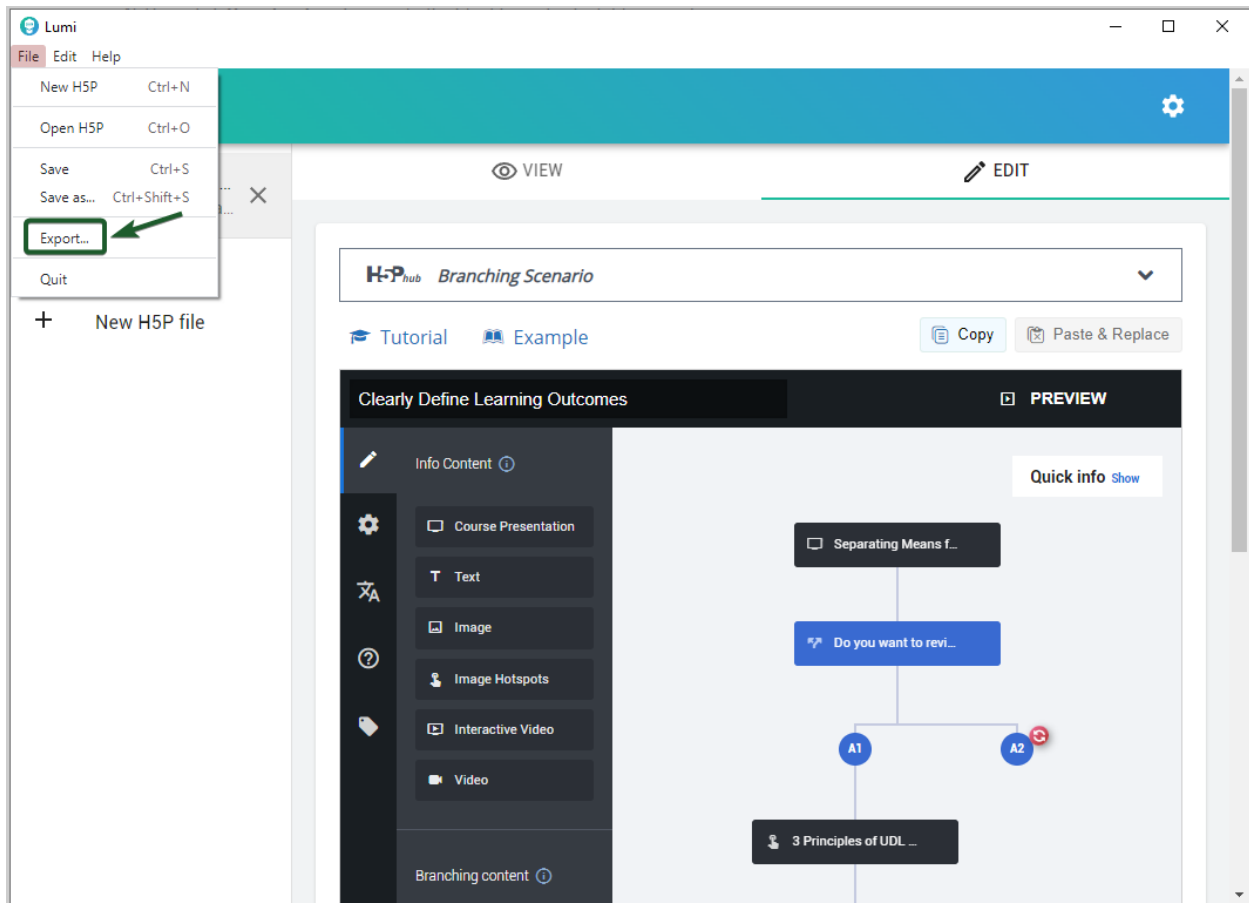
Open the Lumi application and choose the H5P Editor.



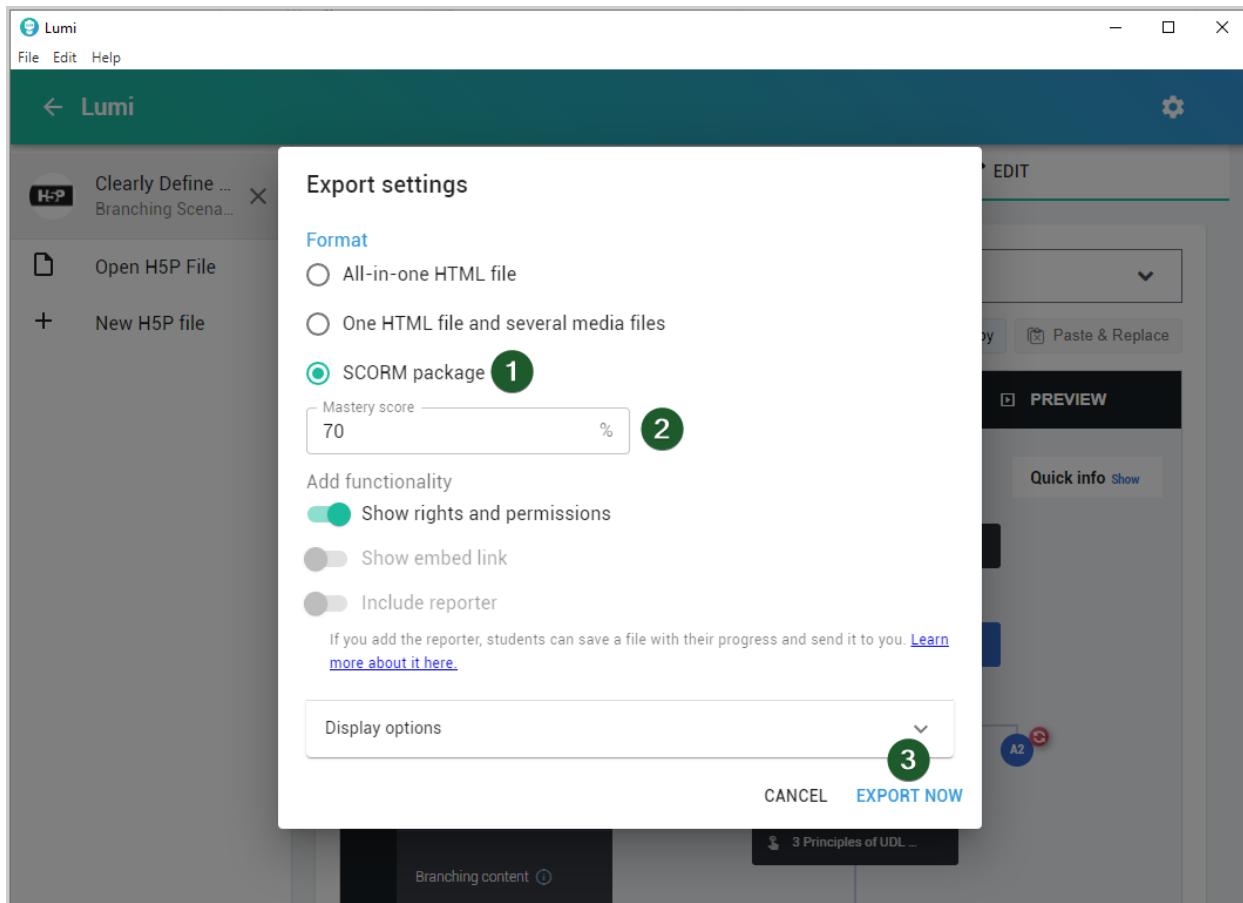
Next, click on "Open Existing," browse to the h5p file, and select it to open.



At this point, the H5P content should be visible in the application window. Click the File menu in the top left corner and select Export.



In the options modal that appears, select SCORM and then click on Export. This will create a .zip file in your downloads folder.



Uploading SCORM Files into D2L

After creating the .zip file, follow the instructions in the "[Import and Manage SCORM in D2L](#)" guide to add this content to your course as either a graded or non-graded activity.

Please note that not all H5P activities are gradable due to the limitations of their nature.

Your Feedback

If you have used this guide for integrating Pressbooks (OER) into D2L Brightspace, please take a moment to complete our short feedback survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vgWSe5zR4n>

References

McKinney, A., Nevins, R., & Arestyl, E. (2022). *Importing a Book into Blackboard*. Pressbooks.

<https://pressbooks.cuny.edu/cunypressbooksguide/chapter/importing-a-book-into-blackboard/>

Pressbooks. (2013). *Pressbooks User Guide*. <https://guide.pressbooks.com/>

D2L. (n.d.). *Brightspace Community*. <https://community.d2l.com/brightspace/>