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While it is heartening to know that over 50% of pre-1964 works are in the public domain, the question of how useful these works might be as OER remains to be answered. Future studies might examine the utility of these older texts to provide supplemental OER in specific subject areas. It is possible that older works in fundamental fields such as mathematics, chemistry and physics may provide richer options for OER than engineering texts, given the rapid pace of technological change. Works with a historical bent are likely to still be relevant but other titles may be useful as well, if only as sources of sample problems, worked examples and alternate explanations of concepts. It will require the expertise of engineering faculty to make the determination of value but first they must become aware of the availability of these public domain works.

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