OER for Libraries and Textbook Affordability Partners

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Open Ed Live 2024

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Learning Objectives

For colleagues outside the library:

Learn about the resources and expertise your library may develop or already offer to support OER initiatives.

For colleagues in a library:

Gain ideas to start or enhance future-thinking OER efforts.

For all attendees:

Emphasize the importance of communication and collaboration as we support the future of learning with open education.

In chat, please tell us your role!

Agenda

1 Introduction

2 Learning Objectives

3 OER Definition

4 Libraries & OER

5 UCF Libraries & OER

6 Cultivate

7 Curate

8 Consult

9 Collaborate

10 Champion

Activities and Q&A

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Open Ed and OER Definitions

SPARC

Open Education encompasses resources, tools and practices that are free of legal, financial and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared and adapted in the digital environment. Open Education maximizes the power of the Internet to make education more affordable, accessible and effective. https://sparcopen.org/open-education

UNESCO

Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others. https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources

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Libraries & OER

Why Libraries & Librarians?

- Libraries are well-positioned to support OERs.

  o Alignment of values & skill-sets

- Libraries have been at the forefront of open movements.

  o Open access broadly

  o Active participants in the creation & maintenance of OER initiatives (MERLOT, OpenOregon, Open Education Network, local institutional repositories & more)

  o Increase in OER or textbook affordability specific positions

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UCF Libraries & OER

Timeline Highlights:

- **2015** – Informal working group (librarians & instructional designers)

- **2016** – First OER: *Anthology of Medieval Literature*

- **2018** – Affordable Instructional Materials Initiative (AIM) formation to include First Day, OER, Library-sourced materials, and Affordability Counts.

- **2019** – Hired first textbook affordability librarian

- **Today** is a collaboration among instructional designers, the textbook affordability librarian, specialized librarians, and others from the AIM Initiative.

Cultivate

Develop a community that understands and supports OER by identifying potential partners

Getting Started:

- Academic Departments
- AI Teams
- Bookstore
- Digital Humanities
- Educational Technology
- Faculty Development Center
- Faculty Senate
- Industry Partners
- Information Technology
- Institutional Leadership
- Instructional Design and Online Learning
- International, National, Statewide, and Regional Organizations
- Library Departments
- Marketing
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Publishing Departments
- Student Government and Organizations
- Student Success and Wellbeing Groups

Examples:

- The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers: Chapter 3, *Building Your Team* by Abbey K Elder: https://press.rebus.community/oerstarterkitpm/chapter/chapter-3-building-your-team/

- UCF's Affordable Instructional Materials Initiative: https://provost.ucf.edu/initiatives/affordability/

Provide educational opportunities

- Share freely available educational materials.

- Host in-house workshops or learning days.

- Participate in orientations or events on campus.

- Invite external experts to host sessions.

- Create online events with a broader audience.

Cultivating in the Future…

- OER education/support in the tenure and promotion process.

Examples:

- Open Education Conference recordings:

  https://openeducationconference.org/

- Open Education Network Certificate in Open Education Librarianship:

  https://canvas.umn.edu/courses/377736

- Creative Commons Certificate for Educators, Academic Librarians, and Open Culture

  https://certificates.creativecommons.org/cccertedu/

- Resources from Florida Virtual Campus OPEN FL Guide: https://flvc.libguides.com/openfl/home

Curate

Select and organize high-quality OER materials

Getting Started:

- Utilize dedicated OER repositories & collections.

- Explore institutional repositories or open book platforms.

- Develop searches based on needs (textbooks & other materials).

- Create guides or lists of OER materials and/or OER matching courses & areas.

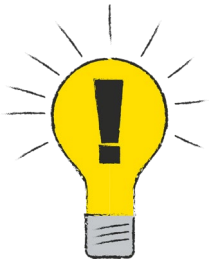- Review copyright & licensing considerations.

Examples:

- FL SOAR

- LibreTexts

- Mason OER Metafinder

- Merlot

- OER Commons

- OpenStax

- Open Textbook Library

- Pressbooks Directory

- And more!

Consider accessibility needs & provide information & recommendations

Getting Started:

     o Utilize accessibility toolkits for OER.

     o Consult with Student Accessibility Services and Digital Accessibility Teams.

Curating in the Future...

- Utilize more advanced technologies to find, store, and make OERs interoperable across platforms.

Consult

Offer expertise and guidance on using & creating OER

Getting Started:

o Some institutions can only provide consultation support versus full-scale OER creation.

o Leverage the expertise of many different types of librarians.

o Highlight the expertise of campus partners (e.g. instructional designers, Office of General Counsel) & synergies of campus partnerships.
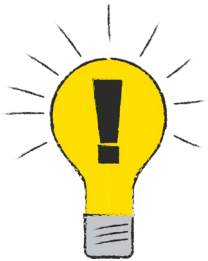
o Connect to experts, colleagues & listservs.

Examples:

• Copyright Librarians

• Digitial Initiatives / Strategies Librarians

• Institutional Repository Librarians

• OER Librarians

• Scholarly Communication Librarians

• Subject librarians

• Technical Services Librarians

• Textbook Affordability Librarians

• And more!

Develop guides and website information to highlight expertise

Getting Started:

  o Refer to existing resources, including statutes & other legislation.

  o Provide information about librarian expertise, including discipline specific or functional experts.

  o Provide resources & recommendations for accessibility.

  o Provide resources & recommendations for copyright & licensing.

Consulting in the Future...

- Utilize technologies and tools, like generative AI, to develop GPT chatbots to answer consult-level questions.

Collaborate

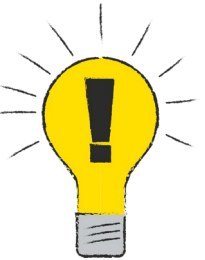# Partner on OER adoption or authoring projects

Getting Started

- What is your project? Adoption? Authorship?

- Consider available time and collaborators.

- Agree on responsibilities, possibly with an informal memo or formal MOU.

- Find a toolkit or template for projects.

- Develop communication and project management standards for ongoing work.

Examples:

- University of North Florida's joint OER Initiative:

  https://www.unf.edu/cirt/id-OER.html

- The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers by Elder, Buck, Gallant, Seiferle-Valencia, & Ashok:

  https://press.rebus.community/oerstarterkitpm/

- Comprehensive OER Initiative Toolkit for Educators and Managers:

  https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/108403/student/?section=1

Collaboration projects in the future

Collaborating in the Future...

- Consider utilizing generative AI on using & creating OER.
  - Remain aware of ongoing legal or ethical considerations.

Examples:
- Creating outlines
- Creating test bank questions
- Make revisions & changes to an existing text
- Developing videos, audio, or other types of media
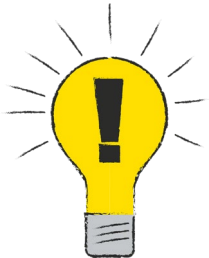- Creating more adaptive and interactive content

Champion

Advocating for OER adoption and integration into systems

Getting Started:

- Share and highlight success stories.

- Think beyond textbook savings.

- Develop awards and recognition programs.

- Advocate for policy changes.

Championing in the Future...

- Partner with interdisciplinary researchers to study the impact of OER beyond current gaps and limitations.

Examples:

- OE Awards for Excellence: https://awards.oeglobal.org/about/

- Lumen Learning's OER Champion Playbook: https://lumenlearning.com/champion-playbook/

- UCF's AIM High Awards: https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/ilab/aim/ucf-aim-high/

- Student PIRGs *Open Textbooks: The Billion Dollar Solution:* https://studentpirgs.org/our-textbooks-research/

Prepare for discussion activities

CULTIVATE

CURATE

CONSULT

COLLABORATE

CHAMPION

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