Library Strategic Planning for Open Education Resources

British Columbia Open Education Librarians

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide generic items that could be incorporated into any library's policies, procedures, or strategic planning documents. In most cases, libraries will need to modify these components before using them, but they can provide some inspiration for ensuring openness is a central part of your library's future.

OER Statement

The Open Education movement is changing the ways that information is created and shared. The library recognizes and supports instructors who choose to contribute to the body of knowledge contained in open education resources.

Defining Open Education Resources (OER)

OER are any educational materials that are openly available, including journal articles, instructional videos, course modules, ebooks (including textbooks). By using this broad definition, faculty are able to work with the library at any level of their instruction - full course, full lesson or activity, or a single resource. Ideally, OER materials are available under the 5Rs: Retain, Reuse, Revise, Remix, and Redistribute; however, some materials may only be available under some of these terms.

Specific Benefits of OER

Benefits of OER can be assessed on several levels depending on the stakeholder.

Students benefits include lower costs for course readings, and new ways to interact with faculty through targeted assignments and activities. **Faculty** benefit from increased student engagement and enhanced learning outcomes. **Libraries** stretch collection budgets by diverting funds away from the high cost works by traditional publishers. Through the collaboration and fostering relationships with faculty in a new way, **librarians** take one step closer to participating directly in course delivery. **Institutions** benefit from increased student retention, engaged faculty, and the creation of a good news story.

BCOEL is a supportive community for British Columbian librarians to learn about open education practices. We seek to build support for librarians and faculty in advocating for the use of open education resources in their home institution by sharing knowledge and practices that can impact higher education

Did You Know?

The **Open Education Resource Repository (OERR) rubric** was developed by the BCOER Group to provide a process of evaluating open education resources for inclusion in subject guides. The **BCOER Mediawiki** provides a shareable resource with vetted open education resources repositories and tools that can be used in the creation of your own institutional guides.

Discovering

Helping faculty, staff, and students find appropriate open educational resources is a significant opportunity for libraries. It aligns with supports librarians already offer their community and addresses the complexity of curating quality resources.

Possible Objectives
- Assist faculty in finding appropriate, high-quality OERs
- Assess and collect high quality OER resources in easily discoverable guides
- Catalogue appropriate, high-quality OERs (e.g., textbooks) in library collection
- Assist faculty in identifying appropriate OER repositories for their materials, assist with uploading/indexing

First Steps
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the discovering strategic planning objectives:
- Inventory existing OER content on campus
- Identify gaps in your collection
- Develop a comprehensive OER guide and add appropriate open education resources
- Promote open materials in a variety of formats and spaces (e.g., library website, open textbook displays)

Did You Know?

Universities are offering open education grants. For example, Simon Fraser University provides OER Grants to support the adoption of open textbooks and other open educational resources in SFU courses.

Adopting

Supporting faculty through the process of updating an existing OER provides another opportunity for libraries. Many libraries are taking on responsibilities for copyright information at their institutions, giving opportunity to discuss OER options. Other resources on campus, such as Teaching and Learning Centres also have an important role to play here.

Possible Objectives
- Leverage copyright consultations to encourage faculty to consider using OERs and to talk about CC licensing
- Develop OER course development/conversion grants
- Develop grants to support faculty in adopting existing OERs (e.g., "Faculty OER Fellowships")
- Develop a consultation process for OER development that includes instructional designers, faculty, and librarians
- Support faculty adoption by purchasing print copies of open textbooks for review purposes

FIRST STEPS
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the adopting strategic planning objectives:
- Inventory of OER use on campus in courses and programs
- Identify grant sources suitable for OER support
- Identify past successful OER grants
- Meet with OER users and grant winners to discuss their projects and the ways the library can support their work

Did You Know?

Open Journal Systems, Open Monograph Press, and Open Conference Systems are free, open source software applications for open journals, books, and conferences.

Creating

In addition to helping faculty, staff, and students find and use OERs, many libraries have become involved in supporting the production of these resources as well, through the hosting of open textbooks or open access journals, providing multimedia workstations, and other activities and services including librarian driven content delivery.

Possible Objectives
- Support OER hosting by working with IT departments to find best hosting options (including journals, conferences, monographs, multimedia learning objects, etc.)
- Co-create and deliver workshops with instructional faculty on converting to open classrooms
- Develop and/or host workshops on digital object development
- Support the hosting and/or archiving of open education resources into institutional and subject specific repositories
- Add Creative Commons license to all library-created materials

FIRST STEPS
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the creating strategic planning objectives:
- Identify education needs related to open education topics for faculty, including: creative commons, finding sources, etc.
- Identify institutional professional development opportunities to offer workshops or information sessions related to open education.
- Partner with OER advocates on campus to offer events.

Connecting

While successful OER projects can happen in isolation, long-term success and sustainability comes through collaboration. The essence of "open" is that we can cooperate with others, share and use the results of past activities, contribute to broader projects, and reduce the time and cost requirements to achieve successful outcomes.

Possible Objectives

- Participate in regional, national, international initiatives (e.g., OER repositories, subject guides) and share locally created open courses and resources (e.g., report results to BCOER Librarians, Open Textbook Library, etc.)
- Share and advertise promotional materials (e.g., posters, graphics) in an easily adaptable and open manner
- Promote and celebrate local success stories
- Facilitate a campus-wide OER interest group, including a list of faculty and courses using OERs. Try to populate the committee with key personnel including wherever possible administrators, deans, instructional designers, faculty, students, bookstore representatives, librarians, and information technologists
- Organize campus-wide OER awareness events for faculty, students, and colleagues.
- For example, #textbookbroke campaigns, Open Access Week, and Open Education Week.
- Build on existing OER initiatives from other institutions
- Designate OER responsibility within a librarian's job title
- Become the first point of contact for institutional interests in open publishing
- Leverage existing opportunities to spread the OER message (e.g. departmental meetings)

FIRST STEPS
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the connecting strategic planning objectives:
- Identity existing OER supporters and activities on campus
- tart a local OER committee
- Join regional OER initiatives

Did You Know?

The #textbookbroke campaign was started by students to highlight the high costs of textbooks. Spearheaded by student governments, many colleges and universities have committed to making open textbooks a key issue to be addressed by academic administrators.

Did You Know?

OER outcomes could include tracking student savings, open education initiatives on campus, open textbook adoption, open textbook reviewers and educational leaves that are open based. Organizations like BCcampus, often maintain publicly viewable adoption and review stats through their web presence.

Improving

To ensure OER programs are effective and improving, careful metrics must be gathered and assessed, focusing on learning outcomes. The library can be a central resource for both data collection and research support.

Possible Objectives
- Record OER metrics, including open textbook use.
- Create bibliography of research reports on effective OER usage
- Support research activities on campus related to OER use and adoption
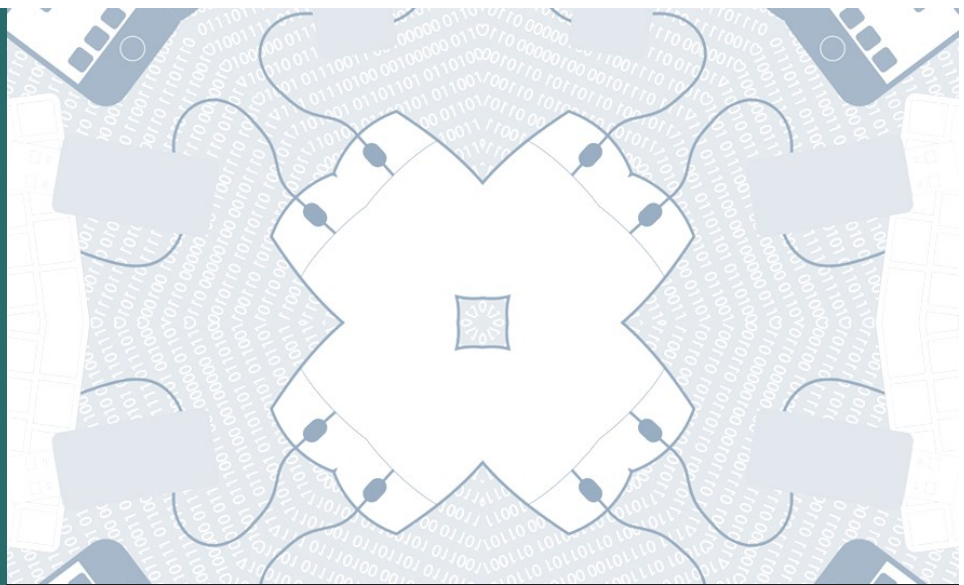- Participate in local research initiatives on open education resources

FIRST STEPS
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the improving strategic planning objectives:
- Develop a plan for gathering and using OER metrics
- Talk with colleagues to avoid duplication of effort and learn from one another
- Identify most relevant metrics and their source

Did You Know?

The MARC record set for the titles in the BC Open Textbook Project are available to download. The records were created according to a standard accepted by the BCLA Cataloguing and Technical Services Interest Group (BCCATS).

Visibility

Making collections visible to the library community is one of the most important objectives of every library system. To promote OER use at your institution, the visibility of open resources in the library systems will promote the successful adoption of content in a course.

Possible Objectives

- Create library specific OER web page that puts guides and institutional information in one place
- Catalogue OERs where appropriate
- Find Marc records for other repositories and assess for inclusion in catalogue
- Enable open collections through discovery layers and A-Z lists/ERM's
- Work with bookstores, or coordinate through interlibrary loan departments for easy printing/shipping of open textbooks
- Identify different hosting opportunities for locally created OER content and recommend most suitable platform in conjunction with IT department
- Purchase and display print copies of open textbooks
- Purchase print copies of open textbooks on demand for faculty to review for adoption
- Participate, and potentially lead OE programs for Open Access and Open Education week

FIRST STEPS

There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the visibility strategic planning objectives:

- Add high impact OERs to library catalogue
- Create a display of printed open textbooks in a high traffic area
- Develop an OER primer to be used by instructional designers and subject librarians in meetings with faculty members
- Bring relevant open textbooks to faculty meetings

Did You Know?

There are a number of organizations that advocate and support advocacy initiatives related to open education. Become involved in SPARC, the Open Knowledge Foundation, and/or BCcampus to learn about ways to advocate on your campus for open education.

Advocacy

Librarians should participate in active advocacy programs on campus. Where such programs do not currently exist, librarians should help to establish them.

Possible Objectives
- Work with student services to have the open access icon displayed next to each course in the calendar that uses open resources
- Work with student government to raise awareness around open resources.
- Support students events around open education
- Work with bookstores to develop intersections and areas for collaboration

FIRST STEPS
There are a number of ways to begin working toward the objectives listed above. The following are a few first steps to begin meeting the advocacy strategic planning objectives:
- Identify potential partners on campus with an interest in OER
- Invite partners together to discuss possible collaborations on OER programs and/or events on campus
- Identify ongoing events that support open education and partner on possible awareness events

References

SPARC. (2013) List of OERs and Project Policies. Retrieved on January 11, 2014 from http://www.sparc.arl.org/resource/list-oer-projects-policies

Glasgow Caledonia University (2014) GCU Interim Open Educational Resources Policy. Retrieved on January 11, 2014 from http://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/library/content/pdffiles/GCU-Interim-Open-Educational-Resources-Policy-Approved.pdf

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https://gcublend.wordpress.com/2015/03/16/8-steps-to-creating-an-institutional-oer-policy/

Kleymeer, P., Kleinman, M., and Hanss, T. (2010) Reaching the Heart of the University: Libraries and the Future of OER. Retrieved on January 11, 2014 from http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/78006/ReachingtheHeartoftheUniversity-KleymeerKleinmanHanss.pdf

Additional Resources

- https://mediawiki.bccampus.ca/index.php/OERR_Rubric
- https://mediawiki.bccampus.ca/index.php/Category:BCOER
- http://www.sfu.ca/oergrants.html
- http://open.bccampus.ca/2015/09/10/more-bc-open-textbook-stats/
- https://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/
- http://open.bccampus.ca/bcoer-librarians/bc-open-textbook-marc-records/
- http://sparcopen.org/open-education/
- https://okfn.org/
- http://bccampus.ca/