Building and Integrating Open Educational Resources to Support Your Teaching

Showcase of Teaching and Learning at Queen's
Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mark Swartz: Copyright Specialist (mark.swartz@queensu.ca)
Rosarie Coughlan: Scholarly Publishing Librarian (rosarie.coughlan@queensu.ca)
Open Educational Resources

“Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that are freely available online for everyone to use, whether you are an instructor, student or self-learner.”

OER Commons: https://www.oercommons.org/
The 5Rs - What Makes Material Open?

- Retain – make, own, and control content
- Reuse – use content for any purpose
- Revise – adapt, adjust, or modify the content
- Remix – combine original or revised content with other open content to form new content
- Redistribute the remixed work under a similar licence so others can use your work too!

"The Access Compromise and the 5th R," David Wiley
Why use open materials?

Source: Mark J. Perry, Carpe Diem blog, American Enterprise Institute
Why use open materials?

How much students in Canada say they spend per term on textbooks

2011: “The average postsecondary student in Canada spends about $500 to $1,000 for textbooks and course materials each semester”

Sources: “Data on Textbook Costs,” Alex Usher, 2015
“How to cut the costs of textbooks,” Dakshana Bascaramurty, Globe and Mail, Aug. 2011
Why use open materials?

Did the cost of materials impact which/how many classes you took?

“Nearly half of all students surveyed said that the cost of textbooks impacted how many/which courses they took each semester.”

2015: Students in courses using OER enrolled in higher numbers of credits the following semester (Fischer et al.)

Why use open educational resources?

• Flexibility over how you use content
• Available in multiple formats (accessible)
• Customize, modify, or update as needed.
  – Why reinvent the wheel?
• Improvement in course grades
• Students are grateful, reduced costs!
• Showcase and share your expertise

Source: BCcampus
Why use open educational resources?

Figure 5: Most frequently cited purposes for using OER

- for ideas and inspiration
- to supplement existing coursework
- to prepare for teaching
- to broaden the range of resources available to learners
- as assets within a lesson
- optional self-study materials for learners
- to broaden the range of their teaching methods
- to provide e-learning materials for learners
- to engage their students more fully in a topic area
- to enhance their professional development

Source: “Use of OER,” BCcampus
Why use open educational resources?

• Open statistics module, students performed the same or slightly better on standardized exams (Brown et al., 2014)
• Open intro psychology textbook - students got better grades, had a lower withdrawal rate, scored better on the final (Hilton and Laman, 2014)
• OER in math courses, pass rates increased from 63.6% to 68.9% (Pawlyshyn et al., 2013)
• Chemistry course used an open “ChemWiki” instead of a traditional textbook, (Allen et al., 2015) no significant difference in learning.
Why use open educational resources?

• “Open and commercial content is roughly equivalent, it is the access and affordability that makes the difference”

• Open and Affordable Course Materials Working Group, Spring 2017 (Provost’s Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning)

“…facilitate the use of open and affordable course readings, textbooks, and other learning objects in support of the learning outcomes and priorities of Queen’s academic programs”
What does it mean to you? Faculty Discussion Groups

3 Faculty discussion groups, April 24th and 25th

• “open and affordable course materials”
  exciting…valuable
  community approach to solving problems
  enable equity
  level the playing field
  global…
On the use and current satisfaction with textbooks

- Overarching motivation is to “...improve the learning experience for students…”
- “the text book provides valuable scaffolding for learning” (Nursing)
- “would like to integrate course and lab materials more seamlessly” (Education)
- “..there is often a US focus…” (Education)
- “Students don’t always know what to do with a textbook, so giving the tools (like charts) to sort through what’s important and what’s not...in a flexible way... is key” (Medicine)
- “some students want the textbook but they don’t want to pay for it and so I get asked to photocopy chapters...[approx.] 1/10 students buy the recommended text. (Geology)
On customizing (or creating) an existing open textbook for their own course

• “I passionately hate textbook companies...I get a certain about of glee from courses that don’t require textbooks” (Geology)

• “there is intrinsic self-satisfaction when you’re impressed by your own writing...” (Sociology)

• “even being a reviewer ...was overwhelming and it needs to be timely because the field changes so quickly. I like a hybrid model...” (Commerce)

• “what prevents people from writing their own textbooks is time and recognition”. (Sociology)
• Aims:
  1. Raise awareness about availability of open textbooks and course materials.
  2. Explore supports that instructors need to customize and/or create OERs, including the technical infrastructure required to host and share them.
eCampusOntario: https://www.ecampusontario.ca/

- Building a prototype infrastructure to support the open publishing of curricular materials
- Launch of a new virtual Open Textbook Library.
  - Migrate, integrate and extend the BC Open Textbook Library to eCampusOntario (May 2017)

1. Open textbook fund $

2. Focal points: adoptions an adaptation of BC Campus Open Textbooks, indigenous studies, settlement and refugees, francophone, skills related.

Call for proposals coming soon. Watch this space!!
### The Educational Leadership Stream: Criteria for Tenure and Promotion

Based on excerpts from the Agreement on Conditions of Appointment for Faculty – Articles 3 & 4

| Criteria                           | Appointment to Instructor 1                                                                                                                                  | Promotion to and Tenure as Senior Instructor (or Appointment to Senior Instructor)                                                                          | Promotion to Professor of Teaching (or Appointment to Professor of Teaching with Tenure) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Teaching                           | • “Normally requires completion of academic qualifications, evidence of ability and commitment to teaching” 3.02<br>• “Judged principally on performance in teaching” 4.01 (b)                                            | • “Requires evidence of excellence in teaching” 3.04                                                                                                          | • “Requires evidence of outstanding achievement in teaching” 3.05<br>• “Requires evidence of... distinction in field of teaching and learning” 3.05 |
| Educational Leadership             | • “Normally requires evidence of...promise of educational leadership” 3.02                                                                                   | • “Requires evidence of... demonstrated educational leadership” 3.04<br>• “Requires evidence of... involvement in curriculum development and innovation, and other teaching and learning initiatives” 3.04<br>• “Keep abreast of current development in their respective discipline and in the field of teaching and learning” 3.04 | • “Requires evidence of outstanding achievement in... educational leadership” 3.05<br>• “Requires evidence of ... sustained and innovative contributions to curriculum development, course design and other initiatives that advance the University’s ability to excel in its teaching and learning mandate” 3.05 |
Where can I find OERs from Queen’s?

http://guides.library.queensu.ca/open-educational-resources
What next?

• Watch for more information about:
  – the eCampusOntario Open textbook fund - Call for Proposals (next few weeks)
  – Contribute to the discussion via our blog (coming soon).
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Thank You!

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