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Building Faculty Community via OER



Amanda Zerangue, MLS, JD

Jörg Waltje, PhD, PFHEA



Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation you will

- **Understand how book costs impact a variety of student metrics**
- **Realize how high textbook prizes serve as a barrier to inclusive education**
- **Recognize how OER can help create more inclusive classrooms**
- **Be eager to encourage your colleagues to adopt OER**
- **Have a plan to promote the use of OER around your campus**



Intro

OER: Relief for the learner, and a fine way to build faculty collaboration

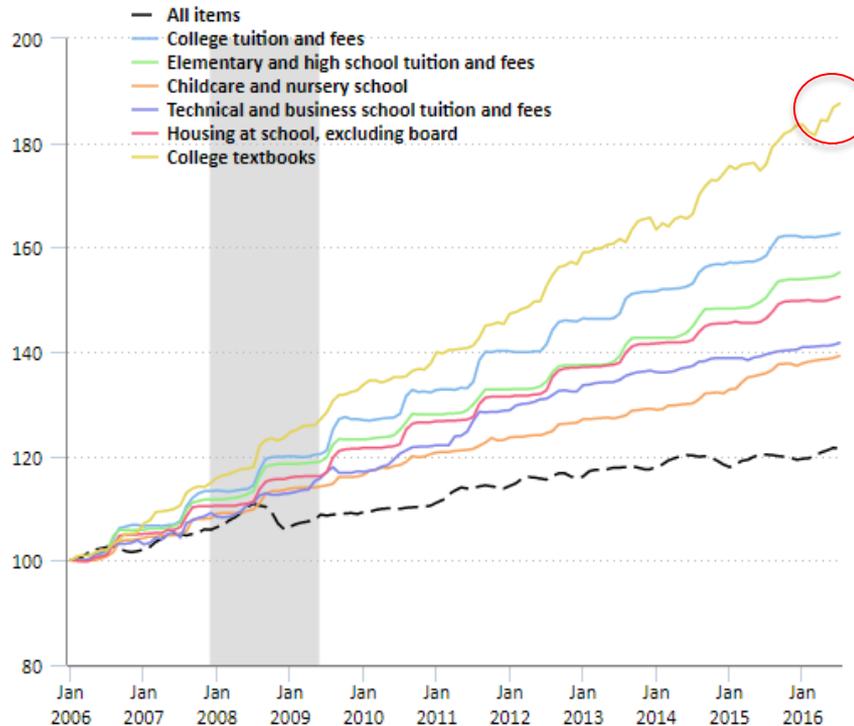
- Most immediate benefit to using OER in the classroom: Easing the additional monetary burden our students face.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2016), from January 2006 to July 2016, the Consumer Price Index for college textbooks increased **87.5%**.



Cost Increases

Consumer price indexes for tuition and school-related items, not seasonally adjusted, January 2006–July 2016

January 2006=100



187.5



An epiphany

High textbook prizes serve as a barrier to educational equity and accessibility for many students.

Basic needs take priority:

Food

Rent

Tuition

Accommodations

Childcare

Benefits of OER

- The main benefit of OER is cost-savings for students, however recent research clearly indicates that OER positively impacts other student success metrics.



Benefits of OER

Cost of textbooks correlates to:

Academic Choices

Student Performance (Hilton, 2016)

Student Success

Student Debt

Colvard, Watson & Park (2018):

OER improve end-of-course grades and decrease DFW



What are OERs?

Teaching, learning, and research resources that

- reside in the public domain or...
- have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others



Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
CC BY-NC-SA

The Premise

- Transition to low or no cost OER texts has not only the potential to have a real impact on *attracting* students to an institution or a particular department, but also on *retaining* them.



Noteworthy

- Students from historically underserved and less privileged groups tend to have much better academic success and lower withdrawal rates when they are enrolled in courses which use open textbooks.

TWU Setup

- Hispanic Serving Institution
- High percentage of less privileged, underserved, under-prepared, non-traditional (post-traditional) students (with families, jobs, etc.)

Our Mission



- We want to make the case to college administrators across the US (and beyond) to encourage faculty to explore better and less costly ways to deliver instructional content to their students -- and to *reward and recognize* these efforts!



Where to start?

Easiest entry point:

Foundational and core classes

Important:

Pointing out to faculty that they will not have to shoulder the burden all by themselves!

Approaches:

Adopt, adapt, or create OER materials.



1 in 5

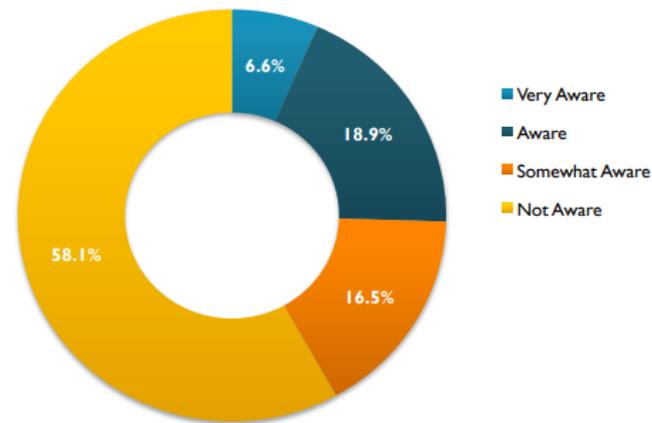
college students
has skipped or deferred
a class due to cost of
course materials*



39%

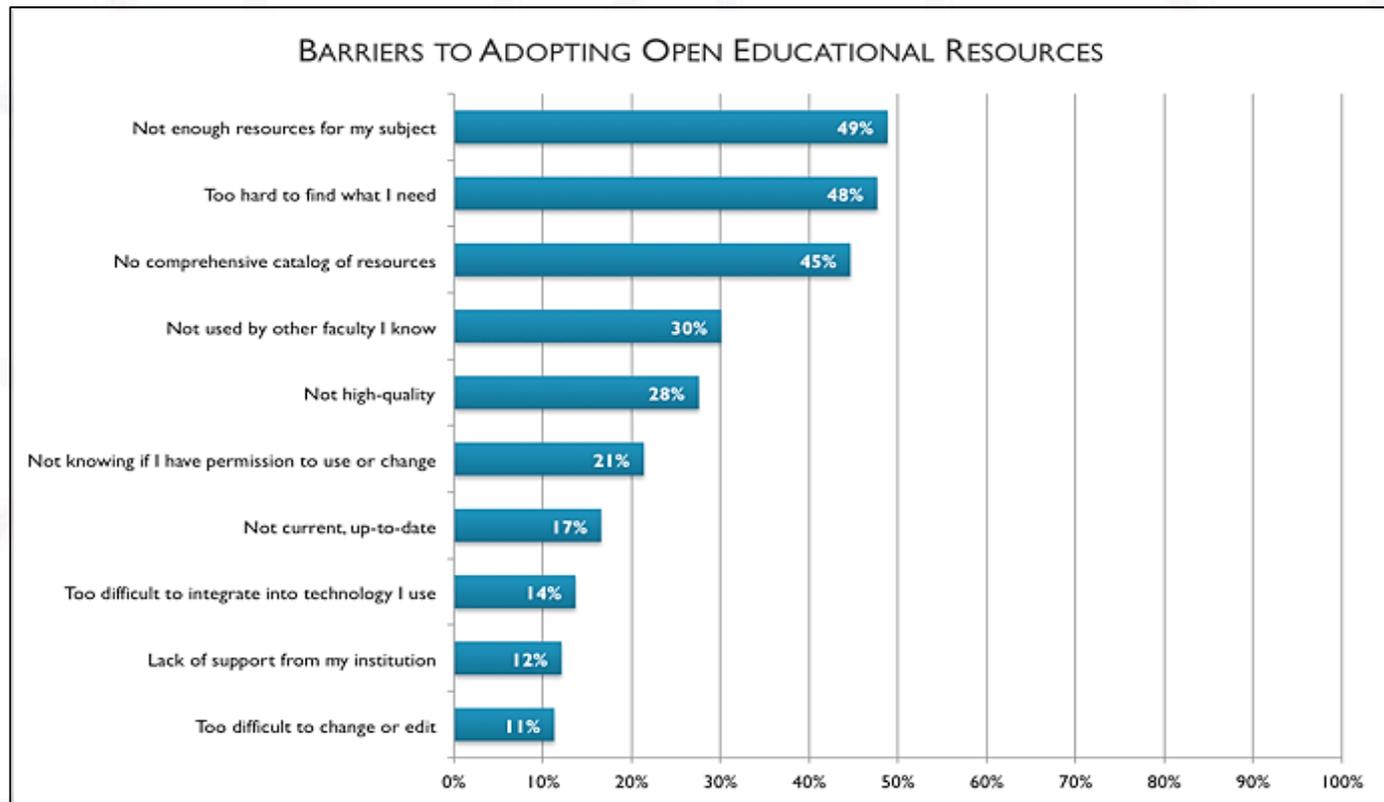
of faculty
respondents have
never heard of OER*

AWARENESS OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: 2015-16





Barriers?



The TWU H.E.A.R.T. Initiative

Helping Education with Alternate Resources and Textbooks (H.E.A.R.T)

Textbook Savings Award for the Department which committed to textbook transformations resulting in the greatest amount of savings for courses taught in Fall 2019 through Summer 2020.

Savings may be the result of:

- Transitioning to an OER textbook or other OER instructional materials currently available
- Creating an OER for your course
- Transitioning to library resources



Phase 1









OER Competition

First place:

For the department projecting the ***highest dollar amount of textbook savings*** for students due to course transformations completed during AY2019-20.



Second place:

For the department which showed the ***highest percentage of faculty participation*** in projected course transformations to be completed during AY2019-20.

Winners: both prizes went to Biology



Celebrating / Inseminating

Immense Cost-Savings

As the result of our OER initiative, in its first year at Texas Woman's University, students in 9 Biology Courses already saved \$346,698 in textbook costs.

(following a \$10,000 investment by the university)

→ Success prompts celebration to ring in Phase 2



H.E.A.R.T. Helping Education with Alternative Resources & Textbooks

Join us on **November 21 at 1 pm** as we celebrate our award winning faculty in adopting **Open Educational Resources (OER)** in their classrooms.

Interim Provost Dr. Carolyn Kapinus and the OER team will recognize the extraordinary work done by faculty members in transitioning the first TWU courses to Open Educational Resources. We will celebrate the winners of last year's *Departmental Award for Textbook Cost Savings* and introduce a new, exciting initiative:

The **OER Course Redesign Cohort** – offering support (incl. a small stipend) to TWU faculty who are teaching core curriculum courses at TWU and are eager to redesign their course to incorporate OER.

Adding OER to TWU courses is a vital part of student success. As we welcome students from all economic backgrounds, the need for low/no cost textbooks increases. This initiative began with a challenge by Dr. Feyten and is driven by our incredible faculty and staff.

Thursday – November 21, 2019 - 1 pm to 2 pm – Refreshments Provided
Location: TWU Blagg-Huey Library (Living Room)
Contact: (940) 898-3731



TWU Libraries • Teaching & Learning With Technology
Center for Faculty Excellence • Information Technology





Phase 2



Phase 2

The *Helping Education with Alternate Resources and Textbooks Initiative* (H.E.A.R.T. Initiative)

- (1) a pilot program to offer a stipend to instructors teaching required courses who contemplate a transition to low or no cost textbooks, and
- (2) a collaboration with strategic campus partners in support of faculty who were willing to adapt, adopt, and/or create Open Educational Resources (OER) for required courses in support of campus retention initiatives.



Top Level Support





Campus Partners

“Support assurances” from campus partners:

The TWU Libraries, the Center for Faculty Excellence, the Office of Teaching & Learning with Technology, and the Office of Technology (ITS).

Selection Process

- Personal invitation from Dean of A&S to Core Faculty
- Respondents willing and able to participate get a \$1000 stipend and all the help they would need
 - Resources
 - Training/Workshops
 - Personal consultations with instructional designs

Results

- Relief of the financial and psychological strain on our students
- Collaborations between colleagues and disciplines
Academic and administrative alliances
- “Price Tag Transparency”
Attracts prospective students and their parents
- Works as a retaining factor for continuing students
Improves persistence, retention, and graduation rates

Your Task:

Talk to your administrators

If you are an administrator: talk to your faculty

Move towards OER -- it is the right thing to do!

Excellent Repository

Educause. (2019). Open Educational Resources (OER).

<https://library.educause.edu/topics/teaching-and-learning/open-educational-resources-oer>

Thank you for listening!

