

Introduction to OER: Challenges and Opportunities for Libraries

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Retain—The right to make, own, and control copies of the content

Reuse—The right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)

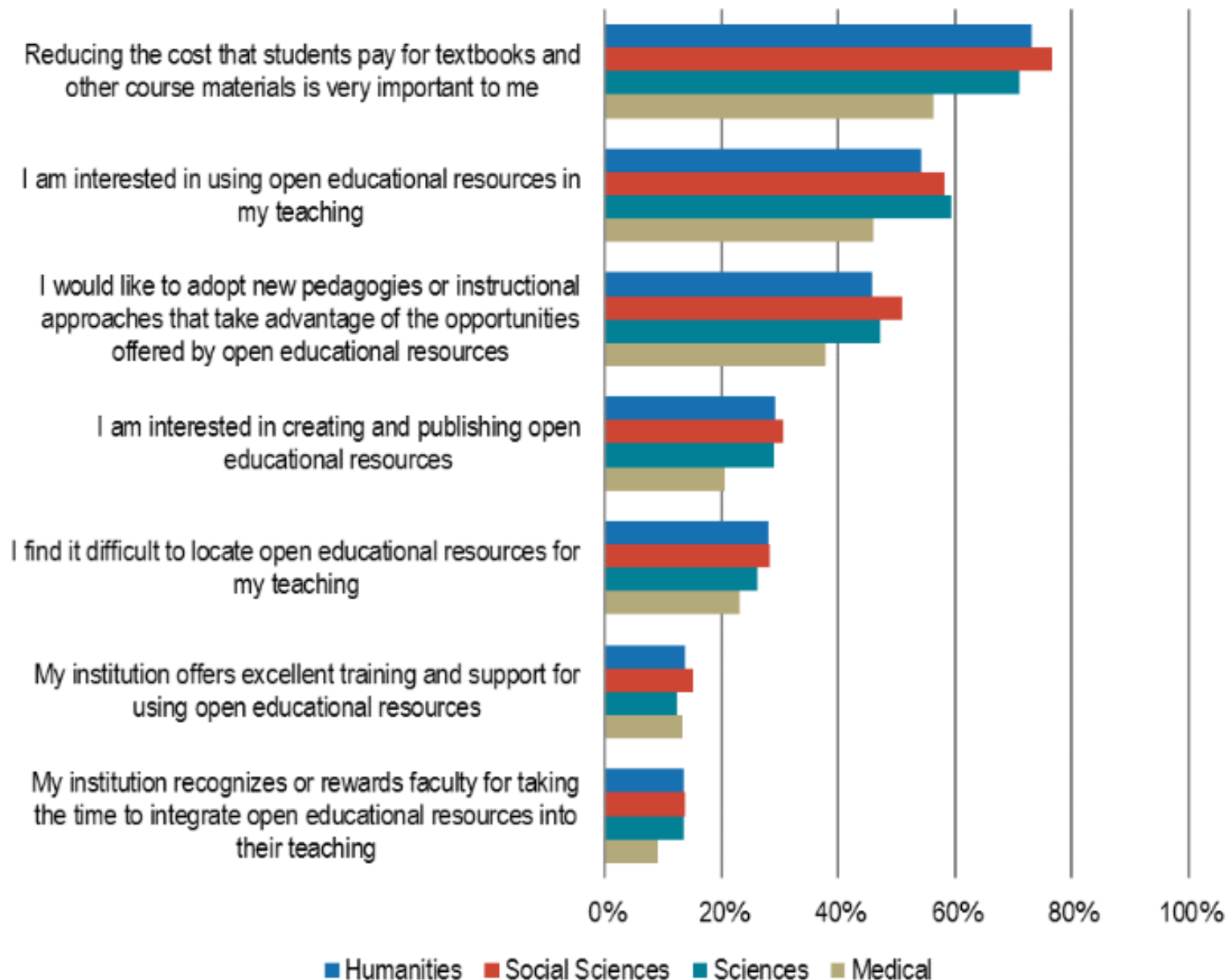
Revise—The right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)

Remix—The right to combine the original or revised content with other open content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)

Redistribute—The right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)

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<http://opencontent.org/blog/archives/3221>



Learning Affordability

Student textbook costs and potential student savings is often the biggest motivator for the switch to OER



The State University
of New York

SUNY NEWS / PRESS RELEASES / FEBRUARY 2020 / 2-4-20 OER SAVINGS

With Student Textbook Savings Nearing \$50 Million, SUNY Chancellor to Double Courses Offered with Free, Digital Learning Materials

February 4, 2020

*14,000+ Course Sections Have Saved Students More than \$47 Million Since
2017*

<https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/02-20/2-4-20/2-4-20-oer-savings.html>



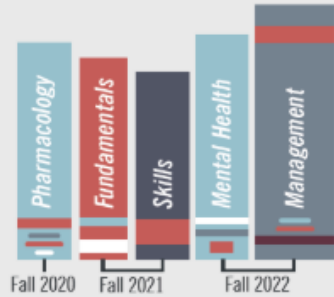
openstax™ Access. The future of education.

Our reach

Since 2012, our free textbooks have saved 9 million students over \$830 million – and we haven't slowed down! In fact, this year alone 3 million students are using our books and saving over \$233 million.

That's the power of an open textbook.

<https://openstax.org/impact>



5
OER textbooks



\$1.5
million
Projected annual cost savings impact

25 Virtual Reality Scenarios



200+
developers

200+ developers and 16 colleges are contributing in the project.



5700+
students

Potential annual impact by the project.

<https://www.cvtc.edu/landing-pages/grants/open-rn>

But...

OER isn't "free"



Achieving the Dream™

“Creating an OER degree pathway cost between \$300,000 and \$1 million at five of the community colleges participating in the initiative that provided researchers with detailed spending data.”

“The colleges’ cost of developing an OER pathway averaged \$70 per OER enrollment, but by the final six months of the grant initiative, unit costs declined to \$21 as spending on new course development declined and average OER enrollments grew.”

<https://www.achievingthedream.org/resource/17993/oer-at-scale-the-academic-and-economic-outcomes-of-achieving-the-dream-s-oer-degree-initiative>

Remember:



You don't need millions of dollars to start using OER



Programs like this result in materials are free to use



Even replacing one textbook can have a large impact for students

It's not just about
learning affordability...

“The most important reason for harnessing OER is that openly licensed educational materials have tremendous potential to contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of education.”

A Basic Guide to Open Educational Resources (OER) Prepared by Neil Butcher for the Commonwealth of Learning & UNESCO <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000215804>

Student Success and Student Retention

OERs can help guarantee that every student in a course has access to course material on day one, and before and after the course

OER adoption has been shown to improve students grades and decrease D and F grades and course withdrawals*

Students can afford to take more courses when they don't have the extra financial burden of expensive textbooks

Academic Freedom and Academic Quality

The textbook doesn't dictate the course

Add or remove content as needed

Update course materials as significant events occur

Support for diversity and inclusion

Provide an innovative learning experience

Support for collaboration

Remember...

“OERs are not inherently diverse, nor are they necessarily inclusive. It is definitely possible for OER to include more diverse voices, but I suspect that intentional design is more important in creating inclusive learning than the licensing on the materials.”

-Quill West,
Open Ed Project Manager,
Pierce College District,
CCCOER President

<https://www.cccoer.org/2018/10/09/on-equity-diversity-inclusion-and-open-education/>

Challenges

Significant time
commitment to
adopt OER

Discoverability
of resources

Coverage for
different
subjects

Complex
licensing
questions

Quality of
resources is
inconsistent

Supplemental
resources may
not be available

Accessibility

There's reason to be optimistic

- Federal/State funding
- Studies about positive learning outcomes
- Mandatory course markings
- Zero cost degrees
- OER in tenure and promotion processes*
- Student advocacy

<https://sparcopen.org/news/2017/recognizing-open-tenure-promotion-ubc/>

OER and the Library

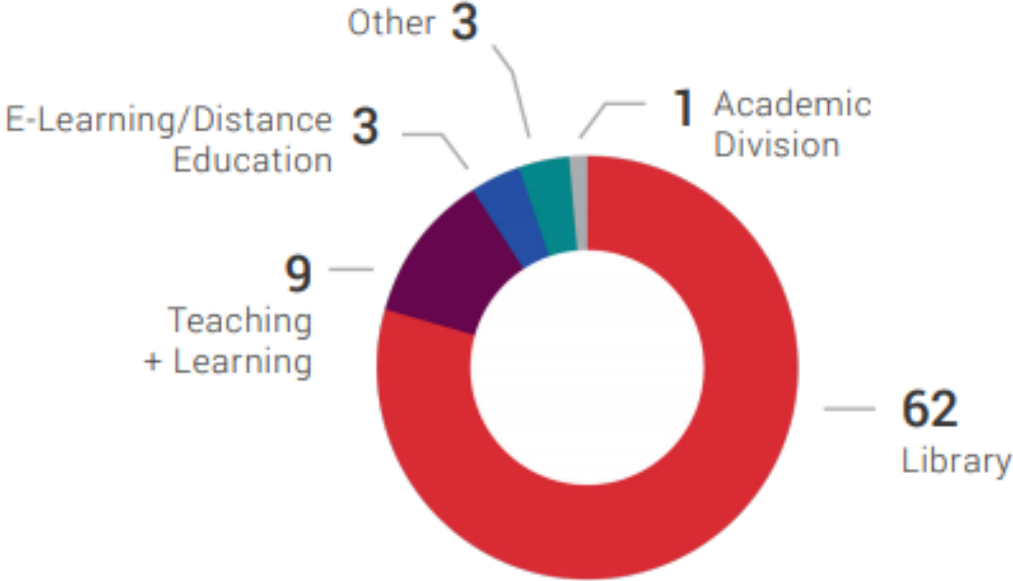


INSTITUTIONS WITH POSITIONS DEDICATED TO OER



Percent of Institutions (n = 129)

LOCATION OF OER POSITIONS



Number of Responses (n = 71)

Librarians...



Search for and discover relevant content



Evaluate the quality and credibility of a resource



Describe resources for search and discovery purposes



Advocate for information literacy and student learning



Coordinate across campus communities



Advocate for equal access to learning materials



Understand and explain copyright



Act as a teaching partner and collaborator

Thank you!

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