Understanding Open Educational Resources (OER):
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Oliver Dreon, PhD
Professor and Director, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Oliver Dreon teaches a wide variety of education and instructional technology courses both in face-to-face and online formats. Dreon has spent over twenty-five years teaching in various educational environments and provides regular professional development and consultation on teaching and learning in higher education. His work examines how technology can be used to support student development through physical, online, and hybrid learning spaces.
The Presenters

**Greg Szczyrbak**
Learning Technologies Librarian and Director, Digital Learning Studio, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Greg Szczyrbak enjoys working collaboratively to explore the impact of technology on learning. Szczyrbak has been an advocate for Open Education supporting local and regional efforts to increase awareness and use of Open Educational Resources in Higher Education.
Learning Goals

• Describe research that demonstrates OER impact on student success and retention
• Find high quality open educational resources
• Use OER effectively to impact student learning
• Advocate for the use of OER as an alternative to high cost text
What is your experience with Open Educational Resources?

A) I have authored OER in my classes
B) I have used OER in my classes
C) I've heard of OER
D) I've never heard of OER
WHY SHOULD WE USE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES?
Rise in Textbook Costs

FRED

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Educational Books and Supplies in U.S. City Average
Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in U.S. City Average

Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
fred.stlouisfed.org
What is Open?

"Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse, without charge."

https://www.oercommons.org/about#about-open-educational-resources
Creative Commons

CC logo circle by Creative Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cc.logo.circle.svg

Creative Commons Licenses Icons by progressor
How big of an issue is textbook costs on your campus? What impact do you feel that textbook costs have on student learning?
Impact of Textbook Costs

In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not purchase the required textbook</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take fewer courses</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not register for a specific course</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earn a poor grade</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop a course</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail a course</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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“Results across multiple studies indicate that students generally achieve the same learning outcomes when OER are utilized and simultaneously save significant amounts of money. Studies across a variety of settings indicate that both students and faculty are generally positive regarding OER.”

OER Impact on Retention

“the differences in withdrawal rates were quite clear; 21% of students in the commercial textbook condition withdrew from the course while only 6% of students in the OER condition withdrew from the course.”

OER Impact on Retention & Student Success

“OER improve end-of-course grades and decrease DFW rates for all students. They also improve course grades at greater rates and decrease DFW rates at greater rates for Pell recipient students, part-time students, and populations historically underserved by higher education”

Poll: How do you perceive the quality of Open Educational Resources?
A) If it's free, it can't be any good.
B) It's got to be as good as the textbooks we already use.
C) Maybe it's better than the textbooks we already use.
D) I don't know...
Perceived OER quality
(as compared to traditional texts)

Faculty Reviews of Open Textbook Network (open.umn.edu)

2,021 reviews of texts in OTN directory
Student Perceptions

78% felt OER “provided access to more up-to-date material than is available in my print textbooks”

95% strongly agreed or agreed that OER were “easy to use”

66% either agreed or strongly agreed that the digital OER were more useful than traditional textbooks and stated they preferred OER to traditional textbooks.

How do you get started....?
OASIS - Openly Available Sources Integrated Search

https://oasis.geneseo.edu/

Directory of OER including textbooks, courses, simulations, modules, etc...

Developed By SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library
OER Working Group at Millersville University

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Prof. Kim Auger, Library
Dr. Oliver Dreon, Education and Director of the Center for Academic Excellence
Mr. Matthew Fox, Instructional Designer
Prof. Krista Higham, Library

Dr. A. Nicole Pfannenstiel, English
Dr. Stephanie Pennucci, Library
Dr. Alex Redcay, Social Work
Dr. Christopher Stieha, Biology
Prof. Greg Szczyrbak, Library
In Spring 2019, 16 faculty were provided $1000 professional development funds for replacing traditional textbooks with OER. OTI faculty participated in semester-long Campus Learning Community. OTI implemented in Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Winter 2020. Data from assessments & surveys are currently being analyzed. OTI 2.0 will begin in February 2020.
How to be an Advocate!

Don’t work in isolation.
Understand what motivates faculty.
Educate community on the instructional and technological implications and impacts.
Recognize that different messages work with different stakeholders.
Questions?
Tell us what you think

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OER021320

Thank you!