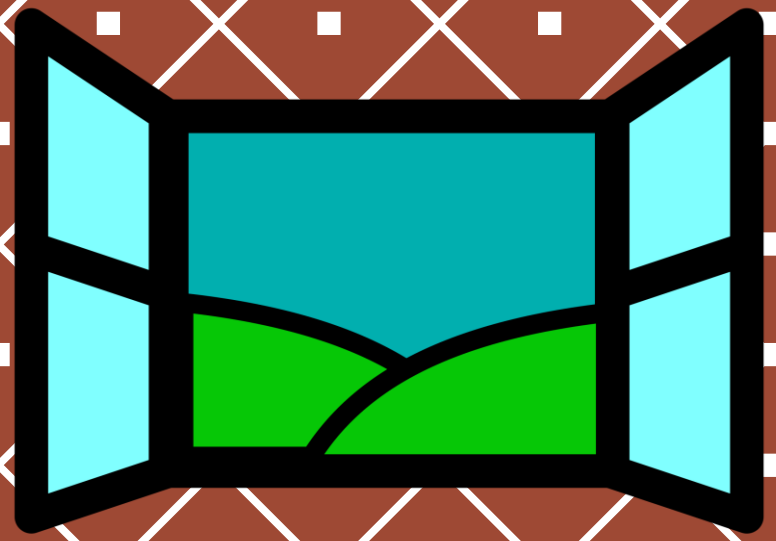
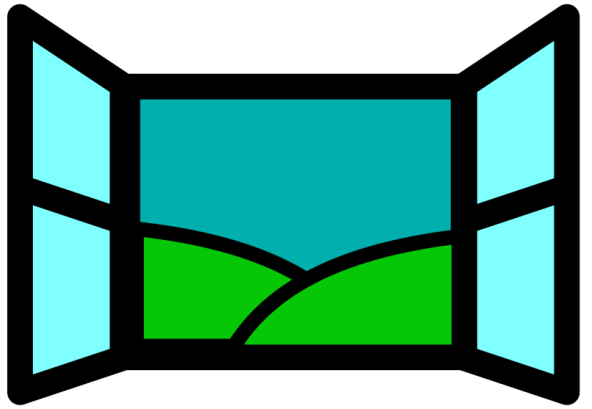


WIDE OPEN VISTAS: THE BENEFITS OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Katie Dawson, ULM Online
Thomas Hoover, CIO
Megan Lowe, Director of the Library

SESSION OVERVIEW



- What are open educational resources (OERs)?
- How do they benefit faculty/instructors?
- How do they benefit students?
- How are they being used in Louisiana right now?
- LOUIS, the Board of Regents, and Affordable Learning Louisiana (ALL)
- What faculty/instructors can do RIGHT NOW
- Opportunities ⭐

WHAT ARE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OERS)?

OPEN

- Freely accessible or low-cost
- Openly licensed or “friendly” licensed

EDUCATIONAL

- Useful for teaching, learning, and assessing
- Useful for research

RESOURCES

- No standard file type or format for OERs
- Most include digital assets such as e-texts, media, and web-based resources

ONLINE TOOLS
SHARE
OPEN
UCT
MATERIALS
ATTRIBUTION
LEARNING
INFORMATION
CONTRIBUTION
OPPORTUNITY
CONTENT
OPENCONTENT
OPENNESS
AVAILABLE
LICENCE
COURSES
WEB
EDUCATIONAL
SOCIAL
COPYRIGHT
RESOURCES
KNOWLEDGE
TEACHING
COMMONS
CREATIVE
EDUCATION
ACCESS
STUDENTS

The Keys To Open Education

Four key ideas which enable education to be more open.

Licensing

Open licensing such as Creative Commons (CC) provides a free and simple solution to attribute, share and build-upon digital resources within the rules of copyright.

www.creativecommons.org

Content

Open Educational Resources are open licensed teaching and learning materials which are freely available for educators to share, remix, build-upon and reuse in their own teaching practice.

www.oercommons.org

Courses

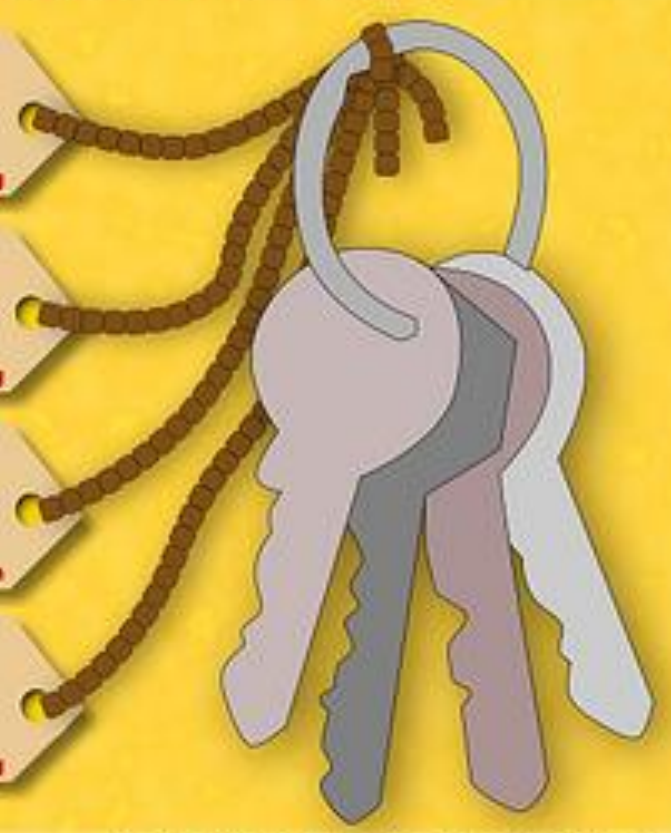
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) aim to provide an unlimited number of students open access to courses via the web - with the idea that anyone can sign-up and study.

www.futurelearn.com

Tools

Open Source Software enables communities of developers from across the world to collaborate, create and distribute free to use digital tools which can be used to deliver open education.

www.opensource.org



Open Education Week 2015 - www.openeducationweek.org

Created by Pete Sparkes, University of Sussex
Technology Enhanced Learning - www.sussex.ac.uk/tel

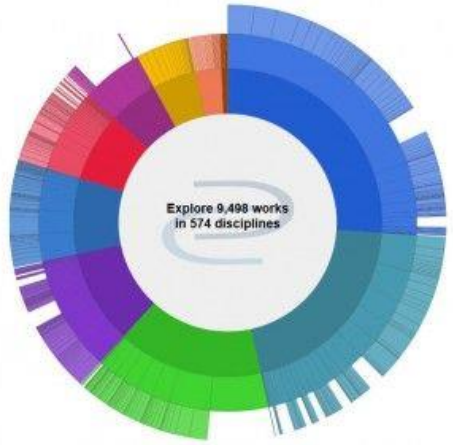
EXAMPLES OF OERS

saylor.org ACADEMY

Digital Commons Network™
Open Access. Powered by Scholars. Published by Universities.®

openstax™

College Open Textbooks
Driving Awareness and Adoption of Open Textbooks



OPEN EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
The Global Network for Open Education

Carnegie Mellon University
Open Learning Initiative
Transforming higher education through the science of learning.

TRANSFORM LEARNING INSPIRE STUDENTS
gooru

OER COMMONS
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

YouTube

TED

PROJECT MUSE®

REBUS Community

MERLOT
Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching

JSTOR

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Open Textbook Library

SAGE knowledge

INSTRUCTOR INCENTIVES

How do Open Educational Resources benefit faculty?

- Students have the resources they need first day of class
- Faculty have the ability to control and create content
- The ability to measure the use of the content within the LMS
- Easy resource to aid in flipped classroom learning
- Ability to update and change resources without the worry of costs for the students
- Students will be better prepared for your courses and your assignments

STUDENT INCENTIVES

How do they benefit students?

- The cost is not prohibitive to buying/accessing the resources needed for the course
- Students are spending more time interacting with the content within the course
- Students may fall into the rabbit hole of studying
- Students can access the information from multiple locations and in many ways
- Active learning with the materials and course
- The cost is not prohibitive to buying/accessing the resources needed for the course

I SAID HEY

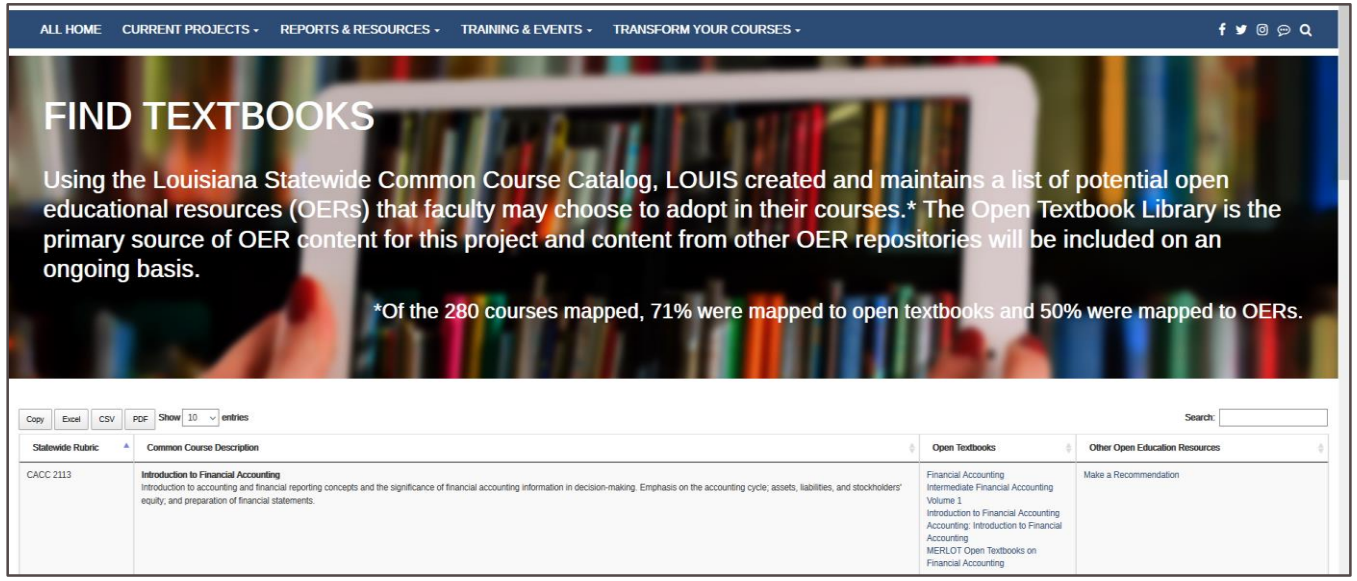
WHAT'S GOING ON?

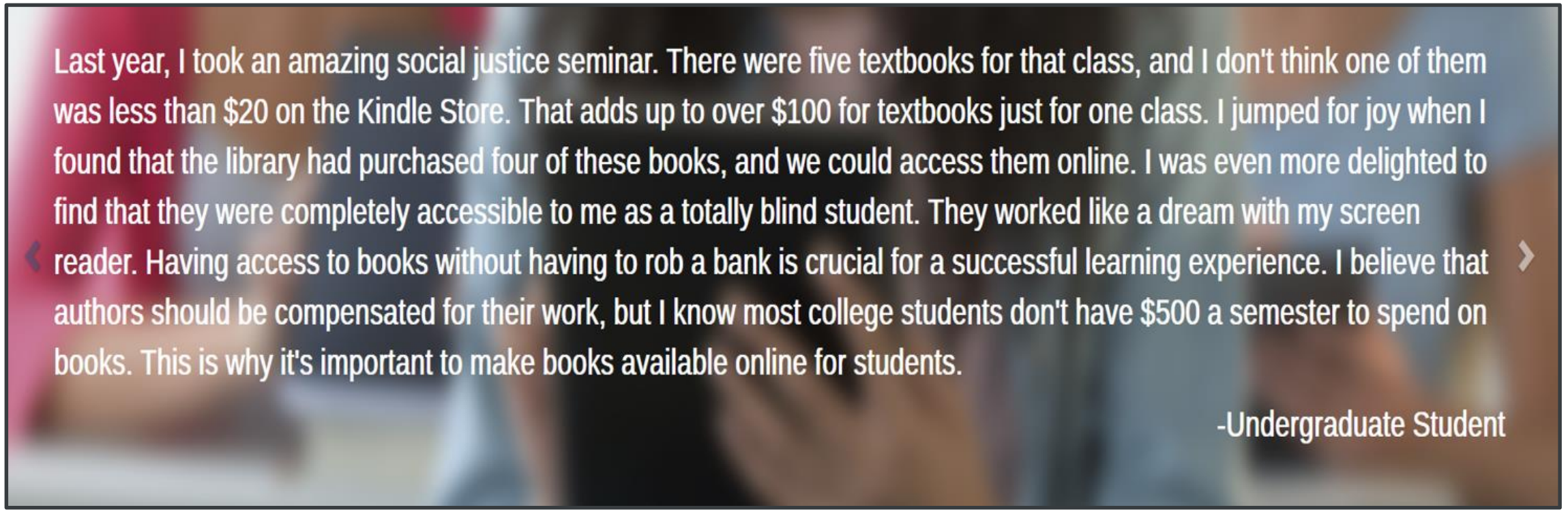
WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOUISIANA

"LCTCS Libraries and LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network are currently engaged in several projects to reduce the cost of higher education for students. These efforts are focused on the rising costs of course textbooks and identifying ways to provide low-cost and no-cost textbooks" via OERs and through the identification of lower-cost purchasing options (LOUIS, 2018).

WHAT'S GOING ON IN LOUISIANA

Affordable Learning LOUISiana (ALL): "Through our Affordable Learning LOUISIana initiative, LOUIS partners libraries and faculty to save students money on education by reducing the costs of instructional materials through the use of eTextbooks, Open Educational Resources (OERs), and other open access materials. This also ensures that students have equitable access to course materials on the first day of class."




Last year, I took an amazing social justice seminar. There were five textbooks for that class, and I don't think one of them was less than $20 on the Kindle Store. That adds up to over $100 for textbooks just for one class. I jumped for joy when I found that the library had purchased four of these books, and we could access them online. I was even more delighted to find that they were completely accessible to me as a totally blind student. They worked like a dream with my screen reader. Having access to books without having to rob a bank is crucial for a successful learning experience. I believe that authors should be compensated for their work, but I know most college students don't have $500 a semester to spend on books. This is why it's important to make books available online for students.
-Undergraduate Student

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ULM?

- ULM Online is redesigning many of its courses with a view towards using OERs and open textbooks. There is some interest in seeing how such an approach would benefit dual enrollment courses as well.
- These redesigns could be used in any online course, including hybrid courses, as well as being adapted for traditional face-to-face courses.
- The Faculty Development Committee (FDC) is seeking to establish a faculty learning community (FLC) which would help faculty/instructors redesign their courses to incorporate OERs and open textbooks.
- The Library continues to participate in LOUIS' efforts with regards to ALL and identifying OERs from which the whole consortium can benefit.
- Library faculty continue to participate in training opportunities regarding OERs and their use.

WHAT YOU CAN DO *NOW* TO SUPPORT OERS

- Get involved in peer reviewing OERs in process
  - ✓ The Rebus Community seeks faculty reviewers for individual chapters of e-textbooks before they are every published.
- Review open textbooks
  - ✓ The Open Textbook Library allows users to read their resources and leave reviews. The site uses a 5-star rating process and has a place for comments and feedback.
- Check out the "Find Textbooks" crosswalk created by LOUIS – you can see what open textbooks and other OERs are available for courses using a statewide rubric and common course descriptions
- Check the ULM Library's collections of e-books (e.g., Sage Knowledge, Project Muse Frontlist, Books at JSTOR, Oxford Scholarship Online, and Ebsco eBooks) for titles you could use, not to mention using these and other databases to identify additional readings and resources that can be integrated with Moodle for easy access.

OPPORTUNITIES

- We can save our students hundreds of dollars by considering OERs, open textbooks, and low-cost options; this can help with recruitment and retention, not to mention engagement.
- We can contribute to the validity and quality of OERs by participating in activities related to their vetting, creation, quality assurance, visibility, and use.
- The Library is seeking to start an institutional repository (IR). Depending on the kind of resources placed in the IR and the product we use, we could become a part of the OER Commons, using the research and resources we develop here to benefit a much wider audience. This would also increase the University's visibility, particularly the visibility of the research we're doing.
- If the FDC is able to get the FLC approved, consider applying for participation.
- If you cannot use open textbooks in your course, consider how other OERs might be used and how they can help reduce the course materials cost burden of our students.

QUESTIONS? THOUGHTS? SUGGESTIONS?

REFERENCES

LOUIS. (2018). *Library-owned eTextbook Transformations: An LCTC System & LOUIS Collaboration LCTC System Libraries.* Retrieved from http://louislibraries.org/ld.php?content_id=38389916

RESOURCES

Affordable Learning LOUISiana:
http://www.louislibraries.org/alearningla

College Open Textbooks:
http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/

Digital Commons Network:
http://network.bepress.com/

Gooru: https://gooru.org/welcome/

MERLOT:
https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm

OER Commons:
https://www.oercommons.org/

Open Education Consortium:
https://www.oeconsortium.org/

Open Learning Initiative:
http://oli.cmu.edu/

Open Textbook Library:
https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

Rebus Community:
https://about.rebus.community/

Saylor Academy:
https://www.saylor.org/

TED Talks:
https://www.ted.com/

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to any of the presenters:

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