Introduction

Open Educational Resources (OER) are "teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions." As a result of rising costs for traditional textbooks, the use of OER in higher education has been on the rise to help level the playing field and increase access to student learning materials. In many cases, the adoption and integration of OER in the curriculum have been a direct result of institutional initiatives and programs supported by the library.

This project is intended to survey project managers of these various OER-related initiatives at U.S. post-secondary institutions of higher education in order to ascertain common programmatic characteristics, including implementation, organization, selection process, and assessment, as well as explore the sustainability of such initiatives. Past surveys on this topic have focused on regional adoption or other aspects of OER usage, but this survey intends to focus on how these initiatives are started, currently operate, and how they might continue to thrive or fail in the future.

This survey has been reviewed and exempted by the Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) of Roger Williams University, University of the Pacific, and Valparaiso University.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Bull (jon.bull@valpo.edu). This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Demographic/Introductory Questions

Note: If you work for multiple institutions, please keep in mind only one primary institution when completing this survey.

1. To the best of your knowledge, what is your institution's Carnegie Classification? If you need to look up your institution's classification, you access those here: http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/lookup/lookup.php

[   ]

2. Is your institution public or independent/private?

◯ Public

◯ Independent/Private

3. Approximately how many staff/FTE in department(s) responsible for open education, including any OER initiative(s)?

[   ]

4. Please identify your primary institution (used only to filter duplicate responses and non-US institutions; data will be anonymized)

[   ]

OER initiative specific questions

5. What unit(s) on campus is involved in your institution's OER initiative?

☐ Library/Libraries   ☐ Book Store

☐ Teaching and Learning Center   ☐ Information Technology Unit

☐ Writing Center   ☐ Instructional Design Unit

☐ Accessibility Unit   ☐ Other

☐ Provost Unit/Office

Other (please specify)

[   ]

6. If multiple units are involved, how does decision-making happen in your OER initiative?

○ Shared Committee   ○ No Shared Governance

○ Multiple Committees   ○ N/A -- OER initiative not administered across multiple units

○ Tier-decision Model (committee(s) recommends and   ○ Other
   administration decides)

Other (please specify)

[   ]

7. If your library is primarily responsible for OER, does it fall under the purview of a particular department? If so, which department(s)?

☐ Scholarly Communications

☐ Research and Education

☐ Technical Services

☐ Metadata Services

☐ Cataloging

☐ Reference/Instruction

☐ No Particular Department/Unit

☐ Other

Other (please specify)

[ ]

8. What prompted the development of the OER initiative at your institution?

☐ rising costs of textbooks

☐ retention concerns

☐ student dissatisfaction with traditional textbooks

☐ state consortia

☐ regional consortia

☐ state legislation or challenge

☐ institutional grant or award

☐ administrative inquiry (i.e. a dean or provost asked about it)

☐ other

Other (please specify)

[ ]

9. How long has your institution had a recognized OER initiative?

☐ Less than 12 months

☐ 1-3 years

☐ 3-5 years

☐ 5-10 years

☐ more than 10 years

☐ Unsure or Not Known

10. How many courses have incorporated OER(s) into their syllabi for at least a semester/quarter/session period as a result of this initiative?

- ◯ 0-2
- ◯ 3-5
- ◯ 6-10
- ◯ 11-15
- ◯ 16-25
- ◯ 26+
- ◯ Unsure or Not Known
- ◯ Other

If other or unsure, you can add information here:

11. Do you have funding specific for your OER initiative?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Other
- ◯ Unsure

Other (please specify)

Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives at U.S. Post-Secondary Institutions

Funding Questions

12. If so, where does your OER funding come from? (department head, provost office, teaching center, academic dean)

13. How much funding do you have for your OER initiative for the current year?

○ $0-$2,000

○ $2,001-$5,000

○ $5,001-$10,000

○ $10,001-$20,000

○ $20,001-$50,000

○ $50,001 or more

○ Unsure or Not Known

14. What costs does this funding address?

☐ faculty participation incentives

☐ publishing platforms services (such as Pressbooks, Scribe, etc.)

☐ IT support

☐ memberships (such as Open Textbook Network, SPARC, etc)

☐ additional staffing

☐ additional incentives for existing OER staffing

☐ student participation incentives

☐ copyright-related services

☐ copy-editing services

☐ other

Other (please specify)

[   ]

15. How much initial funding did your OER initiative have?

○ $0-$2,000

○ $2,001-$5,000

○ $5,001-$10,000

○ $10,001-$20,000

○ $20,001-$50,000

○ $50,001 or more

○ Unsure or Not Known

16. Do you fund efforts like mini-grants or awards for adoption, revision or creation of OER?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Other

○ Unsure

Other (please specify)

[   ]

17. How many OER projects (either adopted, adapted or created) have been funded? (consider each new pilot semester, not semesters where the project has been repeatedly used)

[   ]

Assessment Questions

18. How many students do you estimate have been directly impacted by the OER initiative?

_____

19. How much in textbook costs has the initiative saved in total?

○ $0-$5,000   ○ $250,001-$500,000

○ $5,001-$25,000   ○ $500,001-$1,000,000

○ $25,001-$50,000   ○ $1,000,000 or more

○ $50,001-$100,000   ○ Unsure or Not Known

○ $100,001-$250,000

20. How does your institution estimate textbook cost savings?

_____

21. What type of assessment is conducted for each OER project?

☐ student survey/questionnaire   ☐ number of page hits/downloads of the OER

☐ faculty survey/questionnaire   ☐ number of course adoption rates of the OER

☐ student focus group(s)   ☐ no assessment is conducted at this time

☐ faculty focus group(s)   ☐ other

Other (please specify)

_____

22. What metrics do you typically promote to justify the OER initiative?

- [ ] student cost savings
- [ ] pedagogical innovation/student learning outcomes
- [ ] faculty feedback
- [ ] page hits/downloads of the OER
- [ ] course adoption rates
- [ ] other

Other (please specify)

[   ]

23. What is the highest level of administration that the OER initiative has been reported at your institution?

- ( ) President's Office
- ( ) Provost's Office
- ( ) Dean's/Director's Office (Library)
- ( ) Other Dean's/Director's Office
- ( ) Other

Other (please specify)

[   ]

Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives at U.S. Post-Secondary Institutions

Sustainability Questions

24. What is your impression of the long-term future of OER in post-secondary education in general?

Negative	Somewhat Negative	Neutral	Somewhat Positive	Positive
( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

25. What is your impression of the long-term future of OER funding at your institution?

Negative	Somewhat Negative	Neutral	Somewhat Positive	Positive
( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

26. In your opinion, how likely is it that your institution's OER initiative is still in existence in three years?

Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	Likely
○	○	○	○	○

27. How would you rate the overall awareness of OER at your institution currently?

Low	Somewhat Low	Neutral	Somewhat High	High
○	○	○	○	○

28. How would you rate the adoption of OER at your institution currently?

Decreasing	Slightly Decreasing	Neutral/Flat	Slightly Increasing	Increasing
○	○	○	○	○

Open Education Resource (OER) Initiatives at U.S. Post-Secondary Institutions

Conclusion

29. Any additional thoughts, concerns, comments or questions you have for the survey investigators?