WHAT ARE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

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AGENDA

▶ Definitions of OER's

▶ Characteristics of OER's

▶ Why Use OERs

▶ Challenges and Issues

▶ Locating OER's

    ▶ Using web sites and search engines

    ▶ Things to consider

        ▶ Accessibility, Creative Commons, Copyright, etc.

WHAT ARE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)?

▶ **Definition**: An open educational resource (OER) is open (accessible to all), licensed, and free to use

▶ Content, including book, or software developed by individuals around the world for educational purposes (K-20 levels);

▶ Much of it is free to use by others, often with some conditions attached, but most are openly licensed;

    ▶ Three principles: openness, free availability, customizability;

▶ Accessible by search methods, or browsing through collections

▶ Any individual can develop and post his or her own OER's;

▶ Generally, the 5R's apply. Faculty can:

    ▶ Retain, reuse, revise, remix, re-distribute

        ▶ David Wiley, MDLA Conference, 2014.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OER'S

- Many OER's are content
  - Ex: demonstrations, Power Point slides, videos, text, graphs, programs, tutorials, collections, simulations
    - Some are static (view only)
    - Some are dynamic (interactive)
- Many are Open textbooks
  - Entire textbooks in popular areas that are free to use
- All educational levels have OER's
  - K-12 instructors rely heavily on OER's.

WHY USE OER'S?

- ► Efficient:
  - ► No need to re-develop the wheel
    - ► E.G., if there is a high quality demonstration of photosynthesis online, you can just use it rather than develop your own;
    - ► A YouTube video depicting a historical event could be a valuable supplement;
  - ► Faculty can make these materials available on first day of classes;
    - ► This can be a huge factor in retention
  - ► Use of Technology
  - ► Being computer-based, many of the resources are in 3 dimensions;
  - ► Often, built-in assessments are part of the resources;
  - ► Content is delivered to the student through a computer, not by paper;
  - ► Cloud based – no need to compile files, assignments, etc., in notebooks;
- ► Quality
  - ► Many have been evaluated by experts
    - ► Ratings and comments have been posted on some OER sites.
    - ► Often, users can post their own evaluations

WHY USE OER'S? (CONTINUED)

- Benefits
  - Reduces costs of course materials to students; (see next slides);
    - Since 1978 textbook costs have risen 812%, much higher than medical services and home prices;
      - Textbooks can cost about 40% of tuition in a given year;
    - Provides some students with access to courses/programs, etc., that they otherwise would not be able to afford
    - Students may/will choose course sections where materials cost less; some research shows that students are spending less on textbooks now, but for the wrong reasons: http://m.chronicle.com/article/For-Students-Textbooks-Become/231455/

- Student Success
  - Research that is coming in now indicates that students are succeeding (grades of A-C) at the same rate, or better, than those who are taking classes with commercial textbooks
    - See last slides
    -

WHY USE OER'S (CONTINUED)

▶ More about saving: "if just one traditional textbook was replaced with an open textbook each year, students would save more than $1.4 billion annually."(T. Whissemore, CC Daily, 9/1/2015)

Re-usability

   ▶ Open source allows a faculty member to use them indefinitely

   ▶ Copyright restrictions, such as Fair Use, are mediated when using Creative Commons, a licensing attribution clearing house

      ▶ Most objects have associated levels of restrictions, if any, written on the resource itself.

▶ Timeliness:

   ▶ Oftentimes students must wait for their textbook to arrive in the mail or on back order from the Book store, losing valuable time. Some drop the course.

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

▶ **The Challenges and Issues:**

▶ **Students are not buying** their required textbooks in greater numbers than ever before; they buy earlier editions, if anything, thus putting themselves at risk academically by not being in sync with their professors and classmates; (see next slide)

▶ **Faculty do not assign** enough of a textbook to make it desirable to have a copy;

▶ **Students cannot re-sell** their books because in many cases there is an online resource that goes with it, and these expire within a year;

▶ **Students are not taking classes** because of the burden of required materials. This affects their completion rate and indirectly it affects the retention of many in their programs;

▶ **Textbook costs have risen over 800%** in the past few decades – faster than all other sectors of the economy, including the Health sector; When a faculty member adopts a textbook today there are built in cost increases in the first two semesters of use; the major textbook publishers have a monopoly on textbook adoptions – mostly because faculty are unaware of their options in these decisions;

▶ In the economic marketplace, textbook costs is one place where the customer (the student) has no input or negotiation rights, other than avoidance in course selection;

Z COURSES AND Z DEGREES

▶ One way to address the affordability of textbooks for students is to promote the development of "Z courses", or "Z Degrees"

  ▶ Z courses are those where students sign up for the course but there is no cost for instructional materials

    ▶ This could be a great "half-step" towards having fully licensed OER materials in your course; OER's are sometimes hard to find in some courses

    ▶ Many faculty may already be delivering a course where there is no textbook or the materials are free to the student

    ▶ Students probably don't care if the materials are licensed, or not, they just want them to be free

    ▶ A school can quickly and effectively address the cost of textbooks at their institution if they use this approach

      ▶ See: https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/mc-open/

LOCATING OER'S?

▶ Because the basic tenet of sharing is alive on the Internet today, there are millions of free educational resources available;

  ▶ The ability to **find the ones you can use** is crucial;

  ▶ Let's look at some popular sources for OER's:

    ▶ Open Textbooks

      ▶ www.openstax.org

      ▶ http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/

      ▶ http://oerconsortium.org/discipline-specific

      ▶ http://lumenlearning.com/

LOCATING OER'S
(CONTINUED)

► OERs are everywhere. The most common ways to search for OER's are:

  ► www.google.com

    ► Example: Search for "mitosis"

      ► Click the options wheel in upper right corner

      ► Advanced Search

        ► Search by "Usage Rights" /Free to Use or Share

          ► See Creative Commons logo

  ► www.merlot.org

    ► Can Search or Browse through over 40,000 objects

      ► Many filters are available;

        ► Solicit a subject from the audience and search for it

LOCATING OERS
(CONTINUED)

▶ Go to https://creativecommons.org/

▶ Click "Explore"

  ▶ "Find CC Licensed Works"

    ▶ Many media, image, music search engines appear

▶ Other sites:

  ▶ See Addendum E

NEXT STEPS?

▶ Start Exploring

  ▶ Determine cost of your current textbook?

    ▶ Do you really need it?

    ▶ Are there Open texts in the market that may work for your course?

    ▶ Consider the following when searching for or using OERs

      ▶ Quality

      ▶ Maintenance issues

        ▶ Development time. Shelf life of selected/developed OERs

      ▶ Accessibility

      ▶ Copyright

      ▶ Creative Commons

      ▶ Other, E.G. ask whether your school or department promotes OERS and, if so, how can you get involved

OER RESOURCES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Links::

▶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources

▶ http://www.slideshare.net/UnaDaly/maryland-online-oer-day-keynote-at-umuc.

▶ http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/programmerelated/2013/Openeducationalresources.aspx - a history of the Open Educational Resources can be seen at this site; many other good resources on this page;

▶ Wizard for Considering OER adoption; http://www.web2rights.com/OERIPRSupport/diagnostics.html

▶ http://www.sparc.arl.org/issues/oer

▶ http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Issues_in_Digital_Technology_in_Education/Open_Educational_Resources;

▶ Open Course Library: http://opencourselibrary.org/

OER RESOURCES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION, (CONTINUED)

► www.youtube.com

► www.khanacademy.org

► http://www.gutenberg.org/

► https://www.oercommons.org/

► http://open4us.org/find-oer/ [great site – highly recommended]

► http://classroom-aid.com/open-educational-resources/curriculum/ [another compilation site – some new links here]

► Glossary (partial): http://www.oercommons.org/courses/oer-glossary/view

ADDENDUM A
MERLOT EXAMPLE

▶ www.merlot.org

    ▶ Search Merlot

        ▶ Browse all Materials

            ▶ Choose Materials Type

                ▶ Open Textbook

                    ▶ Select "Other Filters"

                        ▶ Filter by Creative Commons

                            ▶ Select any text

                            ▶ Go to Material

                                ▶ Show course and CC BY icon

ADDENDUM B
USEFUL LINKS

▶ MC OPEN – Faculty - https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite/mc-open-faculty.html

▶ MC Open – Students - https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/mc-open/

▶ Finding OERs: https://innovate.suny.edu/sunyoercommunitycourse/understanding-oer/identifying-finding-and-adopting-oer/

▶ Creative Commons Licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

▶ MC Library Copyright Guide: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/copyright

▶ MC Use of Copyrighted Materials Policy: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/oit/oitdownloadasset.aspx?id=35993

▶ MC Library Creative Commons Guide: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/creativecommons

▶ Considerations for licensors and licensees: https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Considerations_for_licensors_and_licensees

▶ Copyright Guides: https://www.copyright.gov/circs/

ADDENDUM B
USEFUL LINKS (CONTINUED)

MC Open

        term that defines the overall "Open" initiative at Montgomery College: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mc-open/

Student PIRG Report

▶   http://studentpirgs.org/sites/student/files/reports/National%20-%20COVERING%20THE%20COST.pdf

▶ Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (a must-see site): http://oerconsortium.org/about/

    ▶   Has a faculty toolkit, webinars, open textbooks, much more

▶ Articles (from MC OER web site:

    ▶   https://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/elite/oer/articles-related-to-open-educational-resources/

ADDENDUM C
STUDENT SUCCESS BY ETHNICITY AND GENDER

		Z-Courses			All Courses		
		Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Spring 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
Black/ African American	Male	73.3%	64.4%	73.2%	70.6%	60.53%	73.1%
	Female	77.6	69.4	82.6	77.1	67.5	83.4
Hispanic	Male	77.6	69.3	73.9	76.8	68.8	80.05
	Female	90.7	74	89.4	86.2	77.2	88.6
Asian	Male	79.9	74.1	80.9	79	72.6	82.4
	Female	85	76.9	90.9	83.4	75.5	90.1
White	Male	77.7	69.6	76.3	75.4	68.9	77.2
	Female	83.3	73.3	84.6	81.6	72.5	85.9

Source: MC Office of ELITE, 2020.

APPENDIX D RESOURCES

▶ Google: www.google.com

▶ Google Advanced Search: https://www.google.com/advanced_search

▶ CCCOER: https://www.cccoer.org/

▶ Openstax: https://openstax.org/

▶ Creative Commons: https://search.creativecommons.org/

▶ Merlot.org: www.merlot.org

▶ Libre Texts: https://libretexts.org/

▶ Oasis: https://oasis.geneseo.edu/

▶ University Of Minnesota: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

▶ Maryland Open Source Textbook site: https://www.oer-maryland.org/

APPENDIX E
MORE RESOURCES

- ▶ MC OPEN – Faculty - https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite/mc-open-faculty.html

- ▶ MC Open – Students - https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/mc-open/

- ▶ Finding OERs: https://innovate.suny.edu/sunyoercommunitycourse/understanding-oer/identifying-finding-and-adopting-oer/

- ▶ Creative Commons Licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

- ▶ MC Library Copyright Guide: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/copyright

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- ▶ MC Library Creative Commons Guide: http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/creativecommons

- ▶ Considerations for licensors and licensees: https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Considerations_for_licensors_and_licensees

- ▶ Copyright Guides: https://www.copyright.gov/circs/

APPENDIX F
RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

▶ Google: www.google.com

▶ Google Advanced Search: https://www.google.com/advanced_search

▶ CCCOER: https://www.cccoer.org/

▶ Openstax: https://openstax.org/

▶ Creative Commons: https://search.creativecommons.org/

▶ Merlot.org: www.merlot.org

▶ Libre Texts: https://libretexts.org/

▶ Oasis: https://oasis.geneseo.edu/

▶ University Of Minnesota: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

▶ Maryland Open Source Textbook site: https://www.oer-maryland.org/