What is OER?

• OER stands for open educational resources
• OER denotes any openly accessible resource for educational purposes
• Comes out of the OA movement
• “teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others” - Hewlett Foundation, 2012

Copyright

• Creative Commons and GNU
• 6 main licenses with the following parts: Attribution, Commercial/Non-commercial, Derivatives/Non-derivatives
• Individuals can take control over their copyright

What Can Libraries Do?

• Natural fit for libraries/librarians
• Literature shows that OER needs five things in order to be successful:
  • Portability and interoperability (OER should work across various platforms, browsers, devices)
  • Searchability (easy to locate, good metadata used)
  • Accessibility (easy to remix and tweak)
  • Durability (able to remain stable and reusable, i.e. if software or devices change)
  • Quality (correct info, current, etc)
• Current research and literature shows that adding metadata and developing metadata standards are a high priority
• LibGuides to provide information on OER
• Creating a portal/repository, integrating into the catalogue, or adding to an existing portal
• Example: MERLOT
• Information sessions, one-on-one sessions
• Advocate for support and policy development

Benefits/Incentives

• Faculty:
  • Visibility of Research
  • Customization
• Students:
  • Lower cost
  • Up-to-date information
  • Accessibility
• Librarians/Libraries:
  • Increase profile of the library
  • Being able to provide skill-sets and information that faculty and students are requesting

Limitations/Challenges

• Faculty:
  • Time
  • No Support
  • Nothing Available
• Students:
  • Hard to Find
  • More Evaluation Required
  • Not Accepted by Faculty
• Librarians/Libraries:
  • Support
  • Time
  • Quality Control

Teaching with OER

• Coursepacks
• No limits on amount
• Create new works
• Activities, visual materials, syllabi, etc.
• Collaboration
• Availability to students
• Multiple formats, accessibility

Researching with OER

• Freely available at no cost
• No delays in publication
• Share
• Collaborate
• Contribute to the field

OER AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Working with faculty to help promote, support, and distribute OER

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References/Resources

OER research/information guide:

References consulted: