Exploring Faculty and Instructors’ Perceptions and Use of Open Textbooks: Preliminary Results

Definition
“An open textbook is a textbook licensed under an open copyright license, and made available online to be freely used by students, teachers and members of the public. They are available for free as online versions, and as low-cost printed versions, should students opt for these.”


Background
- British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Open Education Resources (OER) – March 2014
- An informal University of Regina working group on open textbooks formed

Methodology
- Objective: to investigate faculty and instructors’ perceptions and use regarding open textbooks
- Online survey distributed in Winter 2015
- University of Regina faculty and instructors
- 90 survey respondents

Familiarity
How familiar are you with open textbooks?
- I have used an entire textbook in my course(s) 9%
- I’ve used part of an open textbook in my course(s) 4%
- I’ve looked at some open textbooks 18%
- I have never heard of open textbooks 23%

Selected Results
Currently do not use an open textbook 88%

Affordability
Are you aware of textbook prices before selecting and assigning textbooks?
- Close to half 45% are always aware of textbook prices

If an appropriate open textbook is available, how likely are you to adopt an open textbook or parts of one?
- 30% are very likely to adopt an open textbook or parts of one

What would be the most important factors influencing your decision to use an open textbook?

Selected important factors:
- Affordable quality
- Backloading of costs for textbook (e.g., textbook, print materials, class notes)
- Ability to search across multiple publishers’ platforms
- Course-specific materials

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Acknowledgments
The survey instrument was adapted from the Open Textbook Faculty Survey, developed by the California Open Educational Resources Council, with the author’s written permission.

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