Multi-Sector Expansion of Open Educational Resources (OER)

Lessons from Texas

SHEEO

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Presenters

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board–Division of Digital Learning (November 2020)

- The mission of the Division of Digital Learning is to provide leadership and advocacy for digital learning in higher education and promote, sustain, and advance a quality digital learner experience positioning Texas as a world leader and resulting in globally competitive digitally proficient citizens.

- Institutions of Higher Education: ~170
  - University Systems: 7
University of Texas System

- Largest of 7 university systems in Texas with 243,000 students
- Several institutions are strong leaders in OER
- Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force & Report
- Established Momentum on OER Priorities
Digital Higher Education Consortium of Texas

● Serves 50 public Texas community college districts
● Assists Texas community colleges in providing learners an education without barriers.
● Initiatives:
  ○ Course Sharing (via Partnership with Acadeum)
  ○ Texas Quality Matters Consortium
  ○ Open Educational Resources
  ○ Research
Session Outcomes

- Sharing of key resources and strategies that are transferable and replicable in other states and higher education systems.

- A broader understanding of the benefits and impact of Open Educational Resources beyond affordability.

- Insights into expansion and collaboration across sectors – SHEEO, 2-year and 4-year, consortial.

- Opportunities and challenges related to the tracking and expansion of Open Educational Resources.
Open Educational Resources (OER) are defined in the Texas Education Code, Section 51.451 as “teaching, learning, or research resources that are in the public domain or that have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use, adaptation, and redistribution by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, media, assessments, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques, whether digital or otherwise, used to support access to knowledge.”
OER & The Open Agenda

**Free** (to students) teaching and learning materials that can be used, modified, and reused without having to ask for copyright permission because of their intellectual property license.

- Equity-centered
- Democratization of Knowledge
- Affordability
- Advancement of Social Justice
- Collaboration & Innovation

<table>
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<th>RETAIN</th>
<th>REUSE</th>
<th>REVISE</th>
<th>REMIX</th>
<th>REDistribute</th>
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<tr>
<td>keep open content indefinitely</td>
<td>use content when needed</td>
<td>modify content for relevancy</td>
<td>combine with other open resources</td>
<td>share content in any context</td>
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Given the size and diversity of Texas, how does the advancement of equity and social justice drive the OER work at your organization?
Landscape of OER in Texas

Statewide Organizations

Practice

Resources

Higher Education & K-12

Policy & Legislation

Texas OER

Leadership
SB 810 (2017) - Established a grant program (2018) through the THECB to encourage the use of open educational resources at Texas public institutions of higher education and required that higher education institutions identify OER in published course schedules.

HB 3652 (2019) - Required the THECB to develop and maintain a web portal customized to meet the needs of IHEs, students and others who may benefit from access to OER. See also “A Study on the Feasibility of a Texas Repository of Open Educational Resources”

HB 3650 (2019) - Required “any agreement made between a school district and a public institution of higher education to provide for a dual credit program to consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources”.

HB 1027 (2021) - Required dissemination of required course materials to include the publication of course schedules with lists of required and recommended course materials, including all associated costs or whether an item is an OER, and a required OER filter for searchable course schedules.
What have been some unintended consequences of Texas legislation on OER?

What are some of the benefits of Texas legislation on OER?
Resources for OER: Texas
What have been the most valuable partnerships and resources in advancing OER in Texas?
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Framework of Cs:
- Content
- Community
- Credentials

Research

- OER Landscape Survey
- Digital Learning - User-Centered Design Research
- Digital Learning Faculty Survey
- OER Regional Needs Analysis
- OER Content Gap Analysis
  - Workforce Education Course Manual
  - Academic Course Guide Manual
- Digital Learning - Digital Design for Student Success Framework
Connecting Research to Practice

- Growth in commitment to OER across the state
- Increase in formal definitions, course markers, fully-OER based courses
- Decrease in faculty incentives
- Stagnant – Professional Learning
- Ecosystem of support – advanced OER practices
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Grants

- Implementation and Development Grants
  - Appropriated
  - Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds

- Technology Assistance Partners

- Open Educational Resources Nursing Essentials Initiative
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Professional Learning

- OER Core Elements Academy
- OER Advanced Skills Academy
- Creator Communities
- Resource for the Resource Retreat
- Digital Learning Ecosystem Series
- OER Playbook Academy
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Community Events

- Open Texas Conference

- Creator Fest: OERTX Edition
  - Chief Academic Officers/Instructional Officers Event
  - Peer Review and OER Toolkit

- Digital Learning Summit
  - OER Track
    - Webinars
    - Grantee Showcase
Welcome to OERTX Repository

Explore collections of open educational resources. Create OER. Collaborate with educators.

Over 140,000 users
Across all states and continents
Over 10,000 added resources
Over 2,000 authored resources via Open Author

https://oertx.highered.texas.gov
OER Engagement in the UT System: Student Success

Three Pillars of Student Success
OER Engagement in the UT System: Student Success

- OER play a critical role in the UT System’s equity-centered student success goals
- Academic libraries have been the drivers for systemwide OER engagement.
- Leadership matters and leadership is found everywhere.
Recommendations:

- The UT System should invest in OER through a commitment to a 3-year OER Momentum Strategy with 10 additional recommendations.
- *Momentum on OER* as the successor initiative

Libraries are still drivers with more faculty across the UT System understanding and using OER, and more institutional leaders understanding their value and impact.

Task Force convened from February 2019 to August 2020

- 25 members from academic and health institutions, including students.
UT System Momentum on OER

● Four Priorities:
  ○ Implement best practices for course materials disclosure
  ○ Incentivize faculty engagement
  ○ Develop system-wide approach to working with publishers
  ○ Identify shared metrics for impact and ROI
Texas Learn OER

An award-winning set of ten peer-reviewed openly licensed modules for faculty, staff, and administrators.

Adapted from ACC Learn OER by Carrie Gits, Director, Division of Digital Learning, THECB

(former Head Librarian and Library Services OER Team Leader at Austin Community College)
Co-organized by DigiTex, the Texas Digital Library, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

- Conference Theme: *The Labor of Open Education*
- Rebecca Karoff, Conference Chair
Measuring Progress – Key Needs

➢ Measuring beyond affordability (equity, access, student success)
➢ National benchmarks & metrics
➢ Shared definitions & calculations (where applicable)
➢ Capturing collaborative experiences (e.g. faculty, libraries, instructional design)
What do you see as key drivers of the next frontier of OER for states, systems and institutions?
Questions?

(Additional resources on following slides)
Statewide Resources

OERTX - https://oertx.highered.texas.gov
Open Texas Conference - https://www.opentexas.org
Texas OER Landscape Analysis 2021

Best Practices in Texas Digital Higher Education: Creating and Adopting Open Educational Resources at Colleges and Universities Across the State - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CrMrj0q4lSRYUM0HML87RPVM2KES6U/view?usp=sharing
Texas OER Community Google Group - https://groups.google.com/g/texas-oer-community-he
OER in Texas Infographic - https://drive.google.com/file/d/18aZD78MD3Nex4ukwOfc7mxRHmElbCrT2/view?usp=sharing
Funding Examples

THECB Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Development and Implementation Grant Program

THECB Open Educational Resources Grant Program

UTA CARES Grant Program

UTRGV Affordable Textbook Adoption Grant
UT System Resources

Institutional Library Guides

UT Arlington
UT Austin
UT Dallas
UT El Paso
UT Rio Grande Valley
UT San Antonio
UT Tyler
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Reports & Other Resources

Momentum on OER (website)
Affordable Learning Accelerator Task Force Report
World of OER Resource Guide
OER in Promotion & Tenure
Other Resources for Faculty & Teachers

EdTech Books
LibreTexts
Finding OER
openstax

Open and Free Pk-12 Resources
Texas Education Agency Available Materials
2021 Survey Conclusions & Implications:

- Nearly 70% of the state’s institutions are advancing the use of OER for online and emergency remote learning.

- Those leading the way take a systems approach to OER policy and practice.

- Recommendations:
  - a state OER Playbook;
  - new OER professional development and grant opportunities as well as best practices case studies;
  - creation of OER curriculum development supports.

2021: 110 institutions participated
Best Practices in Texas
Digital Higher Education

Creating and Adopting Open
Educational Resources at
Colleges and Universities
Across the State

Digital Higher Education
Consortium of Texas
August 2021
OER Infographics:
Why Use OER?
OER in Texas