

Beyond the Classroom: The Advantages of Open Educational Resources and Digital Collections in University Instruction and Research

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OERs and Digital Collections

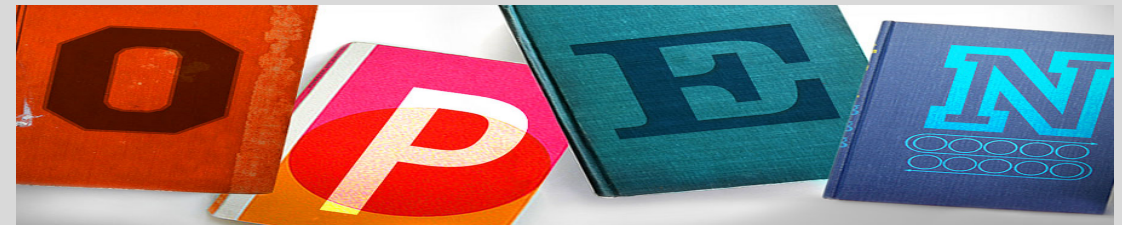


Research Question: What do faculty and upper administration at institutions that support Open Access perceive to be advantages of adopting OERs and integrating digital collections materials into instruction and learning?

Methodology: Using a mixed methods approach of structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews, the pilot study will focus on five private universities and/or colleges in Texas who have adopted Open Access.

Benefits

- °Scalability
- °Provide supplemental learning materials for courses
- °Expanded Access
- °Promote research and publications globally
- °Affordability
- °Accessibility
- °Collaboration



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Background

This research will center on private universities and colleges in Texas interested in implementing Open Educational Resources and better supporting the integration of digital collection into instruction and research. Presently there are limitations that negatively impact the use of OERs and implementation of digital collections. Based on reviewed literature, this poster presents the preliminary economic, academic, and social advantages of including OERs and digital collections in university research and instruction.

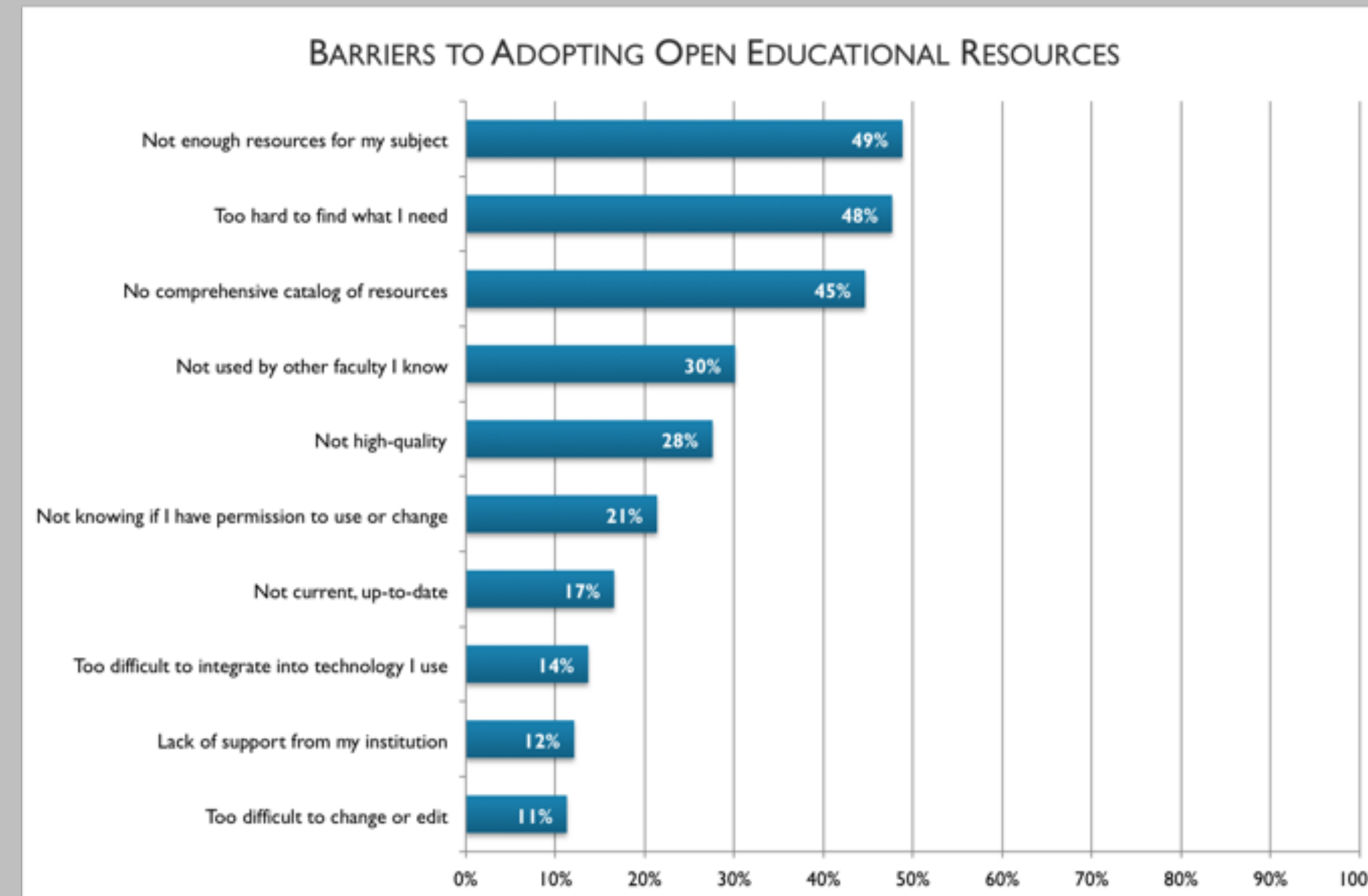
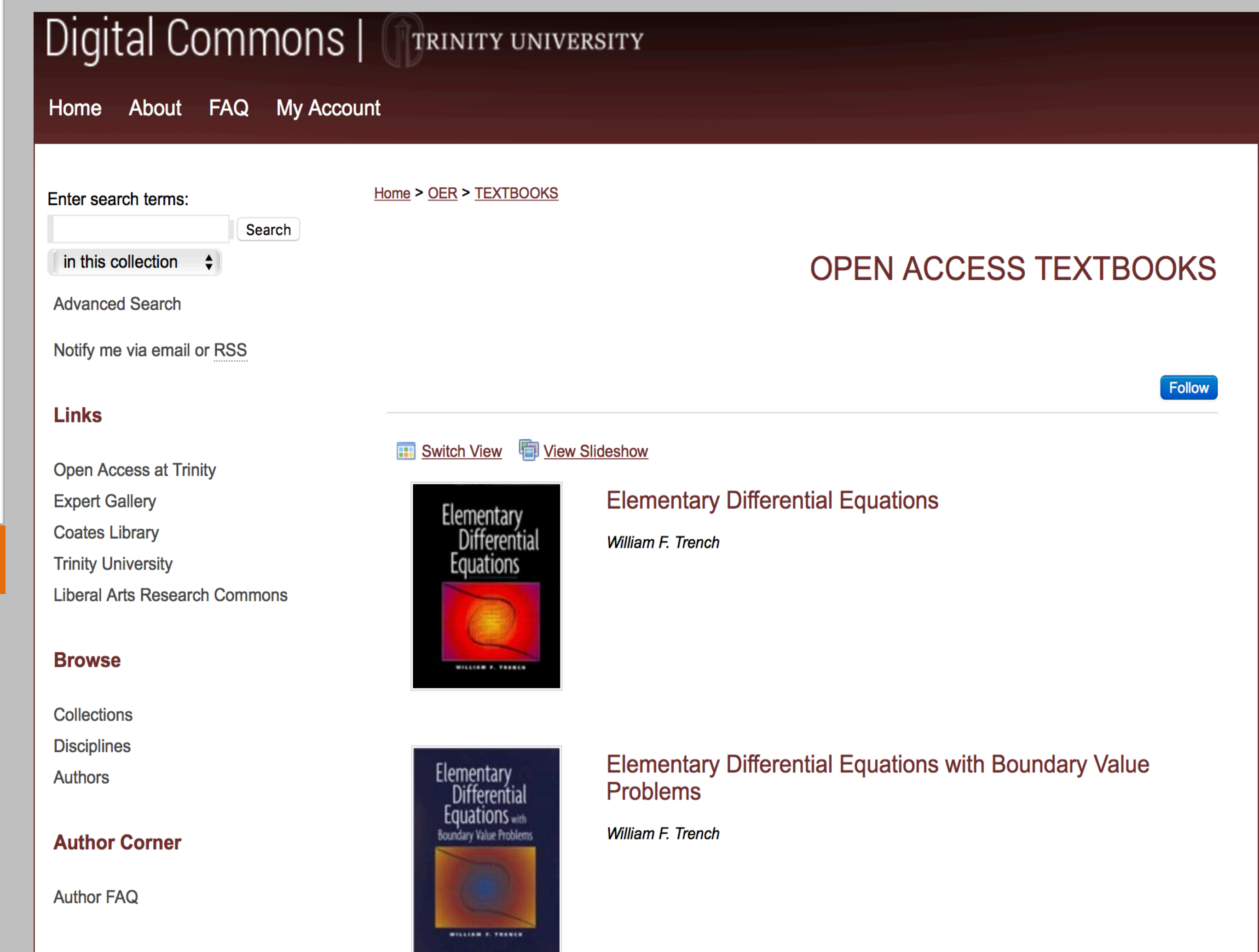


Figure 1: SPARC. Open Education. <https://sparcopen.org/open-education/>

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Research Objectives

- Increase the visibility of instruction and research services within Special Collections & Archives.
- Identify and dispel myths about financial, legal, and technical barriers.
- Provide solutions to current challenges in OER implementation and integration of digital collections.
- Encourage stewardship practices in Open Access, OERs, and digital collections

References

Kurelovic, E. K. (2016). Advantages and limitations of usage of open educational resources in small countries. *International Journal of Research in Education and Science*, 2(1), 136-142.

Petrides, L., Goger, L., & Jimes, C. (2016). The role of "open" in strategic library planning. *education policy analysis archives*, 24, 36.

Sparc.Open Education. <https://sparcopen.org/open-education/>

Economic Advantages

- Improves collection development by integrating OERs into the curation workflows of librarians and archivists
 - Affordable alternative to commercial textbooks
- Open Access has the potential to create a \$3.2T increase in the global economy (Source: SPARC)

Academic Advantages

- 93% of students do as well or better with open textbooks (source: SPARC)
- Transferable research skills
- Instant availability to quality primary source materials

Social Advantages

- Supports a hybrid instruction and learning experience for both faculty and students
- Helps in preparation for course and retention of knowledge after course
 - International collaboration
- Create, organize, and connect information sharing communities