

What is OER?

OER is any openly licensed learning resource that can be freely used & repurposed by others.



Project Objective

To help drive adoption of OER and other open access materials at UT in the long term, decreasing the cost of education.

Activities & Outcomes

- Identified & interviewed instructors at UT currently building or utilizing OER as course materials
- Documented best practices distributed to UT subject librarians & other instructors
- Conducted research on the role that librarians in other higher education institutions have in driving adoption of OER
- Created OER LibGuide for instructors: <http://guides.lib.utexas.edu/OER>



13

Instructors
Interviewed



12

Departments
Represented

Developing Best Practices & Driving Adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) at the University of Texas

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Opportunities

- Some disciplines have many existing OER materials
- Newer instructors may be more likely to adopt OER based on ideological buy-in
- Awarding instructors grants to implement or create OER drives adoption
- Student demand spurs consideration at departmental level
- High instructor willingness & interest to work more closely with librarians

Challenges

- Variable awareness of OER & discipline-specific materials
- Authoring textbooks perceived as low prestige
- Department curriculum committees can slow process
- Revising syllabi, homework, and tests is time-consuming
- Perceived quality concerns with OER
- Low awareness of librarians as potential partners in identifying relevant OER

Top Recommendations to UT Libraries

1. Encourage subject liaisons to identify well-reviewed OER in their respective disciplines & share with relevant instructors.
2. Develop campus-wide & departmental OER marketing plans aimed at instructors.
3. Offer awards &/or grants to instructors implementing OER.
4. Continue working with student government organizations & university committees to drive awareness & demand for OER.