Open Educational Resources: A Curriculum Transformed to Support Student Achievement

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Educational Content: From Scarcity to Abundance
What is an OER?

Hewlitt Foundation (http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources):

**OER defined:**

OER are 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 re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.
Goals of UMUC’s E-Resource Initiative

- Reduce the cost of educational resources for UMUC students.
- Increase the creative and innovative resources for and the path to the acquisition of knowledge.
- Ensure accessibility and sustainability of educational resources.
eResources Process

Program Chairs select courses

A team consisting of the program chair, a faculty member, and an instructional designer meets to break down key competencies

Librarian and faculty search for resources

Program Chairs review/approve resources identified by librarian and faculty

LD&S prepares resources for use in course

Instructional designer works with faculty and program chair to integrate new resources in alignment with established OER best practices

Quality Assurance reviews all resources for copyright/terms of use

Course redesign and Program Chairs sign off
Lessons Learned

• Expect resistance. Change scares people.
• Establish a process, but leave room for flexibility.
• Provide resources for adapting and creating OER and courses.
• Avoid linking to external content.
• Ensure ADA and copyright compliance.
• Develop a plan for courses relying on labs, software, simulations, etc.
Finding OER – Tricks of the Trade

- Saylor.org & MIT Open Courseware – Open courses and books
- Boundless – (Semi) open books
- OpenStax (Rice University) – open textbooks
- OER Commons – digital library, resources
- Open Textbook Library (UMN) – open books
- Project Gutenberg & Archive.org – public domain
- MyOpenMath
- Advanced Google Search
How do we Measure Success?

- Analysis of 92 undergraduate courses from Spring 2013 to Spring 2015 shows increased completion rates of 1.32%.

- The average cost of textbooks for the 92 courses sampled is $96.30. The potential cost savings estimated for the 16,771 students in the After OER sample is over $1.6 million.

- Using Spring, Summer, and Fall 2014 enrollment, the potential cost savings for UMUC students exceeds $5 million.
Questions?