Large-Scale State Compact Collaboration for OER: The Vision, Model, & Research

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1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Thursday, October 31, 2019
OpenEd 2019
Dr. Jeff Seaman

Director

Babson Survey Research Group
Research tells us we are missing opportunities in implementing and scaling OER
Most faculty remain unaware of OER
Growing concern with cost of course material
Faculty are satisfied with OER

Extremely or moderately satisfied with your required textbook

- Use OER: 80.8%
- Not Use: 80.9%
Faculty typically find their own textbooks
Huge untapped potential

• Faculty are largely unaware of OER alternatives
• Faculty have growing concerns with cost of materials
• If OER is adopted it is viewed as equal in quality to commercial alternatives
• The concept of “open” resonates with faculty – good match to the values they see in education
• How best to get the message to the faculty member?
Regional Compact Work in the Midwest

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Regional higher education compacts are uniquely situated to facilitate both grassroots and top-down OER implementation.
Open Educational Resources (OER) are textbooks and ancillary learning materials that are accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students or institutions. To make the cost of postsecondary education more affordable, many states and institutions have adopted or are seeking to adopt the use of OER.

MHEC is working to assist states and institutions in OER implementation by creating an OER Advisory Committee comprised of institutional representatives who have varying levels of experience implementing OER. MHEC convened Midwestern stakeholders on November 28-30, 2018, to learn from experts in the field of OER, as well as from individuals and groups who have already successfully adopted OER.
MHEC State OER Action Teams

• Members come from educational constituencies throughout their states to create a plan to work together and build upon each other states’ successes

• SHEEO offices, K-12 Agencies
• Legislators, Students
• Faculty, Librarians, Administrators

• MHEC provides support for this work
MHEC State OER Action Teams: Examples of Accomplishments

• Presentations to legislatures
• Statewide surveys of institutional OER work
• Create/combine repositories: single repository in some states with common guidelines and metadata
• State memberships in OTN and Openstax

Clip art from http://clipart-library.com/clipart/64043.htm
Next Steps

• Continue networking and meeting support

• Work on additional convenings (looking for funding)

• Senior Leaders Open Education Seminar, Dec. 2019 (collaboration with OTN and funding from Hewlett)

• Working Group: OER for CTE courses and programs

• Working on multi-compact collaboration
State teams carry out the work regional compacts can initiate and support, doing the work in different ways in different states.
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Statewide OER Initiatives in Michigan

MCO OER Initiative

- Goals:
  - Improving student success
  - Lowering costs for students
  - Increasing inter-institutional faculty collaboration

- Activities:
  - Michigan Colleges Online (MCO) OER Steering Committee
  - Professional development
  - Mini-grants for OER adoption, adaption and development
Michigan Colleges Online (MCO) is an initiative of the Michigan Community College Association and the 28 Michigan community colleges.

About

The MCO created the Michigan Colleges Online Hub for our member institutions as a way to reduce costs for students, increase student success and completion, and allow for inter-institutional collaboration with faculty. Our institutions are creating, sharing, and collaborating on high-quality OER for use in today’s classrooms. Join a group and begin contributing today.
Public Universities

- 11 of 15 - some sort of campus-wide initiative
- 5 of 15 - 1-3 years in progress
- Unique and varied approaches across campuses
- Many partnerships between library & other campus units
Private Universities

- 5 of 26 - first small steps in OER
- 15 of 26 - expressed interest in assistance
- Closest thing to initiative - Hope College’s new partnership with LibreTexts
- Most contacts were with librarians
MHEC OER and Policy Implementation Summit
November 28-30, 2018, Chicago
The mission of Michigan OER Network is to support institutions and organizations in promoting the fair and equitable use of open education resources for all students in the State.
Goals

- Communication/Network and Sharing
- Professional Development
- Research
- Advocacy
Next Steps

• Complete By-laws
• Create Executive Council
• Communication Plan
• Funding opportunities
• Formal launch in Spring 2020
Tanya Spilovoy
Director, Open Policy
WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
WCET is the leader in the practice, policy, & advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is a national, member-driven, non-profit which brings together colleges and universities, higher education organizations and companies to collectively improve the quality and reach of e-learning programs.
Meeting Objectives

1. Plan collaborative efforts among compacts
2. Learn about national and state OER policy and implementation
3. Solidify Plans:
   a. Interim plan for OER state and system collaboration
   b. Long-term plan for Regional Compact OER Initiative
OER Regional Compact Meeting
July 15-16, 2019