Open Educational Resources Overview

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What is OER?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely accessible, openly licensed text, media, and other digital assets that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessing as well as for research purposes. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_educational_resources)

The widespread use of OER could empower educators to tailor instruction and enable students to make meaningful choices about their own education while dramatically lowering the cost of instructional materials. [https://hewlett.org/strategy/open-educational-resources/](https://hewlett.org/strategy/open-educational-resources/)
The Need

- 82% - Textbook cost increase from 2002 to 2012
- $1528 average cost per year for books
- 65% of students decided against buying a textbook because of cost
- 94% of those students were concerned that not purchasing a book would hurt their grades.
- ≈ 50% of students said that the cost of textbooks impacted enrollment decisions.
Open Textbook Network

- Nine OTN members have reported a $1.5 million savings in textbook costs to students

OpenStax

- Since 2012, OpenStax textbooks have saved 9 million students over $830 million.
- This year alone 3 million students are saving over $233 million.

MIT OpenCourseWare

- Averages over a million visits each month
Why does OER matter to students?

- 70% of students take out loans to finance their education
- 60% of college costs are indirect costs
- 66.6% of students consider textbook cost when they select courses.
### Example: UNIV 1010 (University Seminar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cost Per Book</th>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
<th>Cost to Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Publisher</td>
<td>$55 - $75</td>
<td>883 (FA 2018)</td>
<td>$48,565 - $66,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OER</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>840 (FA 2019)</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Example: UNIV 1010 (University Seminar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Savings to Students ($55/book)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SP 2019</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>$5,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA 2019</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>$46,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>$51,810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why does OER matter to MTSU?

OER use correlates to increased student credit load per semester.

GPA for students who use OER generally matches or exceeds that for students who use traditionally published materials.
Why does OER matter to Systems
Next Steps

- Faculty Outreach
- Grant Funding
- Developing institutional structure and partnerships