Rhode Island College

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Open Textbook Report, Rhode Island College (March 2020)

Dragan Gill
Rhode Island College, dgill@ric.edu

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Citation

Faculty and Courses using Open Textbooks and OER

New adoption continues at a steady pace, however continued use is more varied. While faculty reported continued interest in open textbooks and OER, several who discontinued use reported barriers integrating online teaching and learning materials into Blackboard to support the core text. These faculty chose low-cost proprietary alternatives with pre-made homework, quiz and test banks in support of online and hybrid courses. However, we continue to remain on track to reach the challenge goals and while faculty may be selecting proprietary content for this semester, they are now aware of, and comfortable using, OER and open textbooks again in the future. See the attached recommendations report for more information.

Enrollment and Savings

- Current estimated students reached: 6900
- Savings: $690,000*

Workshops & Stipends

The *Open Textbooks: Access, Affordability, and Academic Success* workshop was offered twice in Fall 2019. Faculty who attend these workshops and review an open textbook receive one of the two open textbook stipends.

- 8 faculty members attended the workshops, 4 completed the textbook review and received stipends.

In Spring 2020, the following workshops will be offered during or near Open Education Week and collaborating with RIC committees and offices. Both support the shift in campus and state-wide conversation to OER-enabled, or open, pedagogy. Additionally, the events are profiled on the Open Education Week website: www.openeducationweek.org

- *Open to Support Accessibility and Inclusion*, Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning co-op workshop.
- *Implicit Bias on Wikipedia,* Lecture and Workshop co-sponsored by the Dialogue on Diversity and Inclusion and Adams Library. Lead by Janaya Kizzie, the first Rhode Island Arts and Culture Research Fellow at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. Coordinated with Amy Barlow, Assistant Professor, Adams Library.

Faculty who report adopting an open textbook or OER are also eligible for a one-time stipend in recognition of the time and effort put into course redesign.

- 3 faculty members have received, or will be receiving, open textbook adoption stipends for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.

Faculty Creation

Two faculty members have taken the step to OER and open textbook creation:

- Quenby Hughes, Professor, History, included time to work on OER creation in her sabbatical request and is using the OTN member campus Pressbooks sandbox.
- Andrew Wrobel, Adjunct Professor, Psychology, is part of the team evaluating the OpenStax Psychology textbook for a second edition. OpenStax textbooks, aimed at general education and first year courses, are used by millions of students each semester.

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* $100 estimate is a composite of the range of prices students pay for a traditional textbook – new, used, rental, not purchasing it at all – and any cost of the open textbook in print. It averages to $100 in savings per student per adoption. It's used nationally as an estimation figure based on this report: http://www.studentpirgs.org/sites/student/files/reports/The%20Billion%20Dollar%20Solution.pdf

Library Resources & Training

Resources continue to be updated at: https://library.ric.edu/open and all library faculty members continue to attend workshops, webinars, conference sessions and other trainings on open topics.

Other Campus & State Leadership Progress

Reference Librarian Dragan Gill is co-chair of the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative Steering Committee. The committee is comprised of one librarian from each of the participating institutions. As such, she:

- Will be presenting, with Lindsey Gumb, at the Rhode Island Teaching & Learning Network (RITL) Spring 2020 meeting with the goal of further collaboration between the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative Steering Committee and RITL members.
- Coordinates semesterly meetings with the steering committee.
    - Lead a full-day steering committee retreat January 2020, hosted at RIC.
- Manages the committee email list and document sharing for further professional collaboration and conversation.
- Along with Co-Chair, Lindsey Gumb and Office of Innovation Director, Daniela Fairchild, onboards new members.
- Coordinates data collection.
- Acts as co-liaison to the Office of Innovation.

Regional & National Leadership

Dragan's regional and national leadership in the OER community continues to grow:

- Summer 2019:
    - Invited to present on an Open Textbook Network panel at the fall national OpenEd conference. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding was unable to attend.
        - Was featured on the OTN "Humans of OTN" map and Twitter series: https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/7a30b6dd4eb75108edcb6936bee35a9c/otn-members-celebrate-otn-members/index.html
    - Led a breakout session at the Open Textbook Network Summit (OTN)
- Fall 2019 – Invited to participate in quarterly calls for state OER leaders to better coordinate, collaborate and strategize at the state, regional and national level.
- Fall 2019 – Invited to the New England Board of Higher Education OER Advisory Committee.
    - Note new information about OER and regional efforts here: https://nebhe.org/resources/open-education-and-open-education-resources/
- Spring 2020 – Invited to the Northeast OER Summit Planning Committee.

Delays

In Fall 2017 we began work on a PeopleSoft form to collect teaching and learning material use across campus. This project has stalled in negotiating with the bookstore on data sharing and procedure. The form would not only streamline data collection for open textbook use, but perhaps more critically, assist in compliance of the Higher Education Opportunity Act and was included as a step the college would take in a response to an Office of Civil Rights complaint. Further, collecting this information in PeopleSoft would allow the college to do a more in-depth analysis of the impact of OER and open textbooks on issues such as retention and completion.

The typical arch of faculty OER and open textbook engagement is: adopt, adapt, create. We have done an excellent job supporting faculty adoption of open textbooks, as was our charge. However, there are only so many faculty members who adopt a textbook wholesale. If the college is going to support open textbooks and OER further we must create the infrastructure needed to support adaption and creation.

Technology

Purchase Institutional Pressbooks Educational License

Pressbooks is am easy to use publishing platform which creates online textbooks that can be read in a variety of online formats and print. The Edu version integrates tools for interactive material, questions and shared annotation. Additionally:

- The cloning tool allows for easy adaption, not just creation. Faculty save a copy of a book to their "library" and can then revise and remix for their own needs, or with students.
- Pressbooks makes sharing with an open license simple, but at its core is a publishing tool and would support publishing digital books and accessible online content regardless of the license.
- Our Open Textbook Network membership provides a discount at the Silver level and the HELIN Library Consortium has also looked into consortia savings.

OER Commons LTI Integration in Blackboard

Faculty members who adopted open textbooks but switched back to proprietary content reported the need for robust online homework, quiz and test materials to support hybrid or online courses. OER Commons LTI integration would allow faculty to find and use OER content from one of the largest repositories within Blackboard.

Print-on-demand services

While an increasing number of people read on tablets and readers, print remains the most popular format for reading books.* Print on demand would also support:

- Printing lab manuals, course packs, customized course materials,
- Printing large lecture notes needed for majors with image and diagram heavy slides, such as Nursing. and:
- Faculty do not need to guess the number of printed custom textbooks needed.
- Students can print when the material is needed or when financial aid or other funding available to them.
- It would lighten the load on the printers in campus labs and library which are not designed for this type of printing.

Professional Development and Time

To support faculty professional development greater programmatic integration with the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning (FCTL) and the Center for Research & Creative Activity (CRCA) are natural choices.

- I have begun conversations with Chris Marco, director of the FCTL, about creating an OER Faculty Learning Circle
- Open Pedagogy is an excellent support for Undergraduate Research efforts. I hope to collaborate further with a new CRCA director to integrate open pedagogy in further CRCA development.

In addition to stipends, faculty need time – through release or other mechanisms – to redesign courses, review teaching and learning material or create new content. There should be clear and supported paths to requesting time for OER.

* Perrin, A. (2016). *Book Reading 2016*. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2016/09/01/book-reading-2016/