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OER From Vision to Action

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## Building a Community of Practice: Strategies Developed by Librarians in the SPARC OpenEd Leadership Program

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**Presenter Information**

Amanda Larson, Abbey Elder, Elaine Thornton, Grace Atkins, and Talea Anderson

## Building a Community of Practice: Strategies Developed by Librarians in the SPARC OpenEd Leadership Program

Do you want to know how other universities develop their OER initiatives? This panel of five librarians will discuss their participation in the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program, a two-semester professional development experience aimed at building expertise and capacity to advance open education in academic libraries, and how it helped shape the development of OER initiatives at their institutions. Over two semesters, the program blends online, peer-to-peer, and project-based learning opportunities to develop participants into subject matter experts with the practical know-how to advance open education initiatives on their campuses.

The panelists will discuss how their participation in the SPARC OpenEd Leadership Program has helped them actualize their visions of an OER initiative at each of their respective institutions. Participants will leave the panel with replicable strategies for effectively communicating with other Open Education coordinators, building an OER knowledge base for their institution, and utilizing methods for developing their own OER initiative. The course content developed for the SPARC program, which is published and shared under a [Creative Commons Attribution](#) license, will be shared, as well as strategies for how they can be used by practitioners outside of the program.

The SPARC OpenEd Leadership program started in August 2017 with a pilot cohort of 14 fellows selected from SPARC member libraries. Pilot fellows were both students and creators, helping to evaluate and improve the curriculum along the way. Moving forward, the program will accept a cohort of fellows each year, who upon successful completion will receive a certificate and the title of SPARC Open Education Leadership Fellow.

Whether you're interested in applying for the 2018-2019 SPARC Open Education Leadership Program or want to build your own learning community, this panel will provide you with ideas for how you can move forward in your OER project development. Strategies will be scalable for different initiatives, from building small OER outreach efforts to expanding upon an already established program. This panel is intended to support OER Coordinators and Librarians, but other individuals are welcome to attend to learn about how programs like the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program could support Open Education projects underway at their own institutions.