

# **SCoer! in the library**

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# Background



# Open Educational Resources

- Freely available
- Licensed for re-use and repurposing by others



OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



# University of South Carolina

- No OER or scholarly communication program
- Few users and little interest in OER across campus
- Textbook initiative at the library
  - E-Reserves, Reserves
  - Textbook Turnstile
- Invited to SECU initiative in 2015



# SECU: Developing Partnerships to Advance Open Access Initiatives

Goal: The development of an institutional OA or OER initiative by each SEC University team that reflects their institutional context and interests.

- Gained deeper knowledge of OER
- Strategized and collaborated with campus partners
- Created strategic allies within SEC network
- Formulated basic plan





# Getting started

# Back home: set goals

- What do we want to achieve?
- Short term
  - Pass Student Government Resolution
  - Increase awareness
  - Small scale adoption
- Long term
  - University-wide awareness
  - Large scale adoption
  - Possible full programs available using OER
  - Creation and modification of OER



# Proposal for program pilot

- Factors to address:
  - What can reasonably be accomplished?
  - Funding needs
  - Program oversight and accountability
  - Time management
  - Duration of program
  - Adjustments
- Addressed Associate Dean with an overview of program, outlining program overview and possible concerns



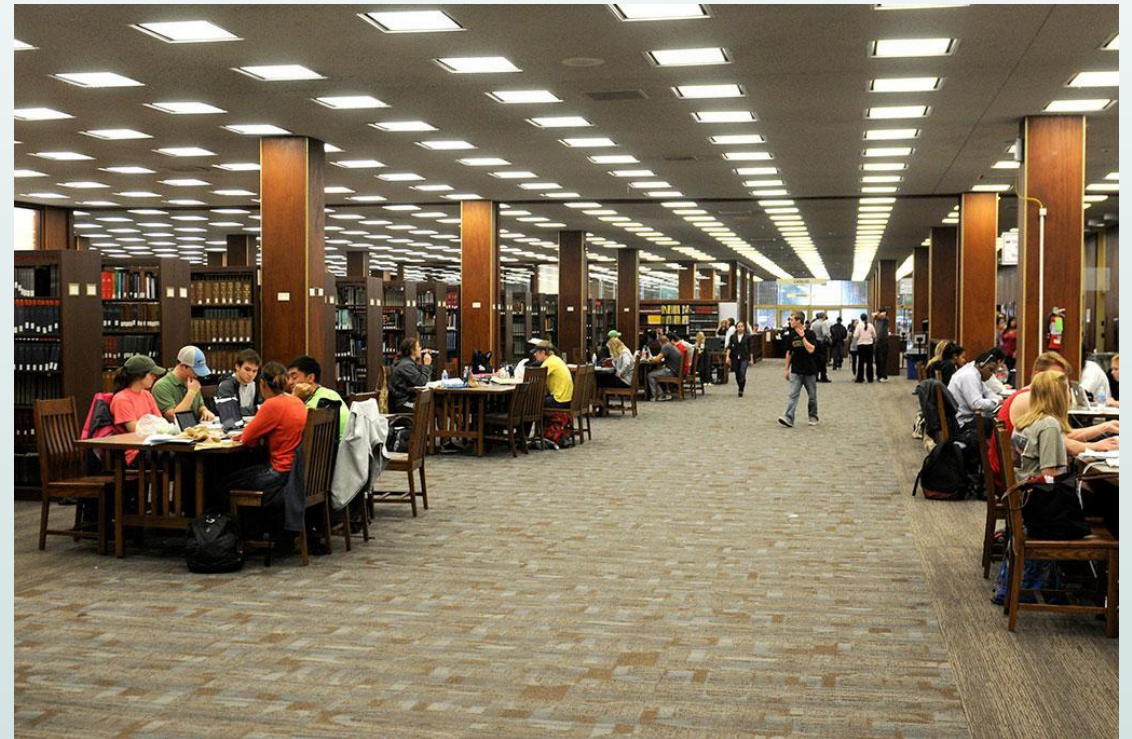




# Implementation

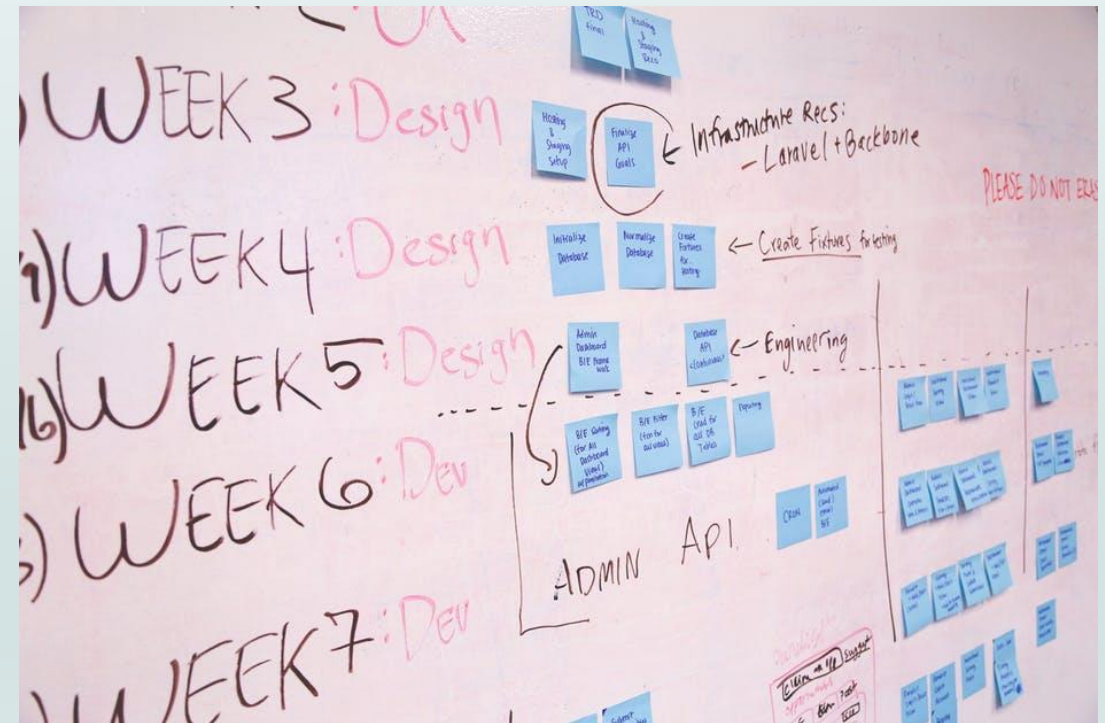
# People

- Systems
  - Build webpage and application form
- Communications Department and library liaisons
  - Advertise through multiple sources: Day Times, library homepage, campus newspaper, liaison emails
- Assistant ILL Librarian
  - Time and interest
- Head of Circulation
  - Deep knowledge
- Human Resources
  - Arrange payments
- Assessment Librarian
  - Help develop and distribute surveys



# The plan

- Open applications and advertise
- Select winners and send notifications in coordination with Student Government
- Offer three workshop dates
- Help faculty select OER
- Assist with review placement
- Arrange payment and certificates
- Send assessment surveys



# Scheduling

- When should the program begin?
- How long should the program run?
- What are reasonable follow up periods?



# Implementation


- Program progressed basically according to plan
- Found that winners were very enthusiastic
- Adjusted workshops as we progressed
- Some difficulty finding resources in certain fields
- Major change: had to change review location
- Learned to be an aggressive communicator
- Encountered partner funding issues

University Libraries


## Free Textbooks! Open Educational Resources

Are you concerned about the impact of rising textbook costs on your students?

This workshop is designed to help USC faculty and graduate students discover and evaluate free and low cost materials for use in their instruction.



**January 29, 1 - 2 PM,  
March 10, 11 - 12 PM,  
April 25, 2 - 3 PM,**  
TCL 4th, Classroom 412



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# Assessment

- Only 40% of winners were familiar with OER before beginning the program
- 80% found the workshop informative
- 50% of winners were able to easily locate a resource in their field
- 100% of winners reported that they would use or consider using OER in future courses
- 100% recommended OER to colleagues

## 3. What were the most helpful parts of the workshop?

Count	Response
1	I didn't know anything about open access and online free textbooks. what great resources!
1	Learning of the cost savings and importance of OeR
1	The presenters were able to recommend a variety of sources for OER resources.
1	Very good information about the availability and sources for open educational resources.

## 4. What could have been improved about the workshop?

Count	Response
1	Addition of information on how to publish Open Texts.
1	Nothing
1	I would have liked to have met more often as a group - maybe once more, just to talk over the review process, encourage each other, discuss any issues we were having with getting our reviews finished.

This is a great project! More faculty should consider using open resources.





# Rethinking the program

# SCoer! 2016

- Budget \$2000 for four \$500 grants
- Require winners to:
  - Attend a workshop on OER
  - Submit a syllabus showing usage of an OER or library-licensed resource in place of a traditional textbook
  - Complete two follow up surveys within the year
- Promotion
- Select winners with SG based on:
  - Enthusiasm and knowledge
  - Potential cost-saving impact
  - Availability of OER in discipline
- Implementation
  - Workshop
  - Work closely with faculty to select courses and resources based on previous syllabi





# SCoer! 2016 assessment

- 75% of winners were familiar with OER before beginning project
- 50% applied because of existing interest in OER, 25% applied to save students money, and 25% applied to learn about new or different teaching methods
- 100% found the workshop informative or highly informative
- 100% were very satisfied with the level of support offered by librarians
- 50% spent between 11 and 20 hours on this project, 25% spent more than 31 hours, and 25% spent less than 10, but had already started curating resources in advance of this project
- 100% will attempt to use OER in future courses
- 100% have recommended OER to colleagues

1 I enjoyed participating. I hope that I can create new materials to fill the void in subjects not offered in my discipline.

1 Thank you for all the wonderful help!

1 Thank you for offering this initiative. I hope it continues to grow!

1 This is a wonderful initiative. Could someone from the library come and speak to various departments about the utility of OERs and the facility in finding them (with a little guidance)? I have many naysaying colleagues who might be surprised by what is available. Those of us in humanities and social sciences are seeking to revive our courses and our programs every year--this could be a very worthwhile first step.



# A few neat things leading up to SCoer! 2017



- Increased word of mouth
- Open Access and Open Education Weeks
  - Displays
  - Panel on Open Education
  - OER Information Table and Interaction with Students
- Interest from administration
- Invited to speak at:
  - Faculty senate
  - Center for Teaching Excellence groups
  - Council of Academic Deans
- Email blast from liaisons to Academic Deans, widely forwarded to faculty



# SCoer! 2017

- Increased applications
- Could pick winners more selectively
- Implemented similarly to 2016, but offered increased individual consultations and assistance
- Variance of winner interactions
- Significantly increased cost-savings



# SCoer! 2017 Assessment

- 75% of winners were familiar with OER before applying for the award
- 75% applied to save students money
- 100% found the workshop or consultation informative or highly informative
- When asked to elaborate on the most helpful parts of the workshop, winners responded:

Exposure to sites to visit and what areas/disciplines they supported. Also the facilitators were clear about asking them for help and guidance.

I greatly benefited from the relevant insights and guidance provided by Amie Freeman. I learned so much from Amie about available teaching resources, and how to integrate these OER resources into my current course. Her assistance was invaluable!

Information about where to find texts

Walking through the different options available, as well as learning the different levels of copyright usage.

- 100% were very satisfied with support offered by librarians
- 100% will attempt to use an OER in future courses and have recommended OER to colleagues

Great experience, I learned a lot!

I would be interested in being a "textbook hero" at a later time! Really enjoyed this opportunity to focus on resources as a means to invigorate my course design (in addition to saving money for students!) Thanks for having me as a participant!

I'm excited to see how this semester goes!

Thanks so much for this initiative and for the support you all provide!



# Moving towards SCoer! 2018

- Increased Student Government interest
  - Professors for Student Affordability
  - South Carolina Student Body Presidents' Summit
- Invited to speak at:
  - Provost's Retreat
  - Oktoberbest





# Review

# Failures (or learning opportunities!)

- Difficulty locating resources
- Commitment
- Scheduling
- Communication
- Time management



# Successes

- Positive responses from faculty
  - Willing to serve as advocates and "textbook heroes"
  - Spread the word to colleagues
- Major cost-savings
  - \$78,500 in first-time savings
  - Combined \$150,000 in total savings from SCoer! winners
  - Over \$255,000 in campus savings
- Expressed support from administration





# Future steps



Image Jake Hills on Unsplash





# Starting your own initiative

**Institutional teams Activity: Logic Model**

**Goal:**

(State specific institutional goal here)

<b>Key Baseline Needs</b> (Where are we starting?)	<b>Key Activities of Program</b> (What activities will we do to meet these needs, close gaps, and achieve goals?)	<b>Key Outcomes</b> (What changes will result?)



# Tips

- Set reasonable goals and expectations
- Collect your resources
- Find your partners
- Constant outreach
- Regularly review your program
- Don't become discouraged





**Want to  
partner?  
Let's make  
it happen.**



# Questions?

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