7-6-2020

Integrating Campus Partners Towards Equitable Open Educational Resources Adoption: A Case Study of a California State University Affordable Learning Solutions Program at Humboldt State University

Kimberly Stelter
Humboldt State University, krs95@humboldt.edu

Kyle Morgan
Humboldt State University, kem8@humboldt.edu

Morgan Barker
Humboldt State University, mew11@humboldt.edu

INTEGRATING CAMPUS PARTNERS TOWARDS EQUITABLE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ADOPTION: A CASE STUDY OF A CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AFFORDABLE LEARNING SOLUTIONS PROGRAM AT HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

EDULEARN20, 6th - 7th of July, 2020

Overview

The Humboldt State University (HSU) Library and HSU Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) collaborated with the campus' own Accessibility Resource Center, Student Disability Resources Center, and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through five training sessions, to facilitate the integration of open educational resources (OER) into the classroom. Faculty and students, from disparate disciplines, participated as equal stakeholders in the discovery and implementation of OER into a course, throughout a year-long immersive program.

This summary covers the history of the California State University (CSU) Affordable Learning Solutions (AL$) OER program at Humboldt State University; the structure of the 2019-2020 implementation of the program; and the results and conclusion to gauge the efficacy of our collective goal to reduce the material costs for students and expand open, equitable, and accessible practices into the classroom. This summary will specifically address the process of integrating inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility into OER adoption and curriculum design, for the purpose of advancing student success. The trainings for the CSU/AL$/OER program are publicly available through our OER Canvas Commons course and our collected OER resources, organized by discipline, are available through our OER Research Guide.

Keywords: Open educational resources, Equity, Accessibility, Interactivity

Affordable Learning Solutions (AL$) @ Humboldt State

What is AL$? "California State University's (CSU) Affordable Learning Solutions enables faculty to choose and provide more affordable, quality educational content for their students. By reducing CSU student course material expenses, more students acquire the course materials they need to succeed and benefit from their CSU learning experience. Now CSU faculty and students have greater access to quality free and lower cost learning materials through a variety of AL$ programs and partnerships." [1] Through this program, we are able to provide stipends to faculty and student assistants that participate in developing or adopting an OER for a course.

HSU AL$ Data

5 years participating in Affordable Learning Solutions (https://als.csuprojects.org/)

Nearly 100 faculty participants in the program connecting over **8,000 students**

★ Over **1 million dollars in textbook costs** saved
★ Average per student saved approximately **$115 dollars**
★ Average of **saved pers course $6,500**

In the first 4 years of the program, HSU librarians offered spipends to faculty to attend 3-hour training sessions on implementing OER. During the last of those 4 years, librarians collaborated with the Center for Teaching and Learning instructional designers to lead the training sessions and added an additional stipend for departments that participated.

For the 2019/2020 academic year, our AL$ team offered a stipend for faculty to participate in 5 training sessions towards integrating an OER for their course. The 5 trainings included sessions from campus partners to integrate equitable and accessible practices to OER integration. Faculty were provided a student with 80 hours of paid time to assist them in their OER adoption.

Affordable Learning Solutions Partners, Planning, and Training

Four faculty and their students assistants participated in 5 trainings over the course of the 2019/2020 fall semester to learn the tools and resources that would help them find, design, and adopt OER or lower cost resources. The AL$ team (2 librarians, 1 Center of Teaching and Learning instructional designer) managed the program by recruiting participants and training partners, coordinating meeting rooms and times, managing student employment, assessing the successful completion of the program, and reporting back to the Chancellor's Office.

1. OER/AL$ Orientation
- Introduced HSU AL$ team members and the AL$ program
- Discussed faculty deliverables
  - Participation in all the program workshops
  - Identification, creation, and/or adoption of an OER or low cost resource to use in a course
- Discussed student deliverables
  - Creation or adoption an OER or other open supplemental materials into a Canvas course in collaboration with their faculty
  - Presentation at the CSU Teaching and Learning Conference, HSU CTL Teaching and Learning Symposium, or HSU ideaFest event

2. Basics of Finding OER/AL$ Resources
- Facilitated by the HSU AL$ team
- Defined OER and Creative Commons licensing
- Demonstrated how to search and identify OER
- Provided participants hands-on opportunity to find relevant OER

http://libguides.humboldt.edu/openedu

3. Equitable Practices when Using OER
- Facilitated by the HSU Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) https://diversity.humboldt.edu
- Provided discussion time and individual consultation
- Focused on defining equity and what that might look like in designing or adapting OER
  - Incorporate diverse images, perspectives, experiences, and universal design
  - Engage students, share their knowledge and experience, and give them choices [2, 3]

4. Accessible Practices when Using OER
- Facilitated by the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and Accessibility Resources Center (ARC) https://disability.humboldt.edu/ https://its.humboldt.edu/classrooms/accessible-instructional-materials
- Informed faculty about services for faculty and students in their classes
- Provided training module on accessibility topics, such as how to implement and verify accessibility across formats and through online and in-person settings.
- Provided discussion time and individual consultation

5. Course Design and Using H5P
- Facilitated by a Center for Teaching and Learning instructional designer https://ctl.humboldt.edu/
- Explored interactive tools in H5P
- Discussed student online engagement and accessibility
- Provided participants hands-on opportunity to test out H5P options

AL$ - OER @HUMBOLDT STATE
CSU Affordable Learning Solutions

All of the training modules are publicly available in the canvas course linked here.

https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/40257

Results

We integrated each of the trainings sessions into an online course for OER development that focused on accessibility, equity, and instructional design tools. The course will allow us grow the AL$ program and seek new opportunities to help faculty adopt OER. The course will be especially helpful as we continue to transition to online instruction during the pandemic.

Only 3 of the 6 recruited faculty completed the program, and only 1 of those found a suitable OER replacement. The other 2, however, identified other courses for possible integration, and 2 of those who dropped still took some courses and may also potentially adopt an OER for 2020-2021. Overall, the program increased awareness among faculty and our campus partners about OER and how equity, accessibility, and instructional design practices should shape OER adoption across disciplines.

Student employment and their increased awareness of OER was also a positive outcome of the program. Although the nursing department participant did not complete the program, their student continued on and was able to bring OER content and practices to nursing program curriculum discussions, including scaffolded APA tutorials and open pedagogy.

One OER that was integrated into a history course will **save nearly 200 students $70 each** (the cost of the old textbook) and **collectively save $14,000 each year** the OER is used. (**https://sites.google.com/view/dh-historyresource/home**)

Primary Sources for U.S. History Survey

Conclusions

Accessibility and equity can be prioritized by intentionally thinking about these components from the beginning to create or adopt OER that will work for learners of all kinds.

Training faculty and student assistants on these topics not only provides them with necessary skills and knowledge, but provides them with ongoing support, making it more likely they will adopt and promote OER with accessibility and equity in mind. This was demonstrated in the history course OER adoption and the primary source website the faculty and student made for the class. This was also evidenced in the participant discussions in and out of the training sessions, and even by the progress made by those who did not fully complete the program.

Next year, we will forgo the year-long commitment to encourage more participation, train and manage our own students assistants to better focus their work with faculty, and develop more targeted stipends to better meet the varied OER needs of faculty and their classes.

Sources

[1] California State University, Welcome to Affordable Learning Solutions (AL$), Accessed 14 April, 2020. Retrieved from https://als.csuprojects.org/
[2] K. Morgan, M. Barker, and K. Stelter, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Equitable Practices when using OER/AL$, AL$-OER @ Humboldt State, 2019. Retrieved from https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/40257/pages/equitable-practices-when-using-oer-slash-al$?module_item_id=554562
[3] K. Parks, Minimizing Barriers Through Open Practices, Community College Consortium for OER, 9 October 2018. Retrieved from https://www.cccoer.org/2018/10/09/on-equity-diversity-inclusion-and-open-education/#barriers

Contact Information

Kyle Morgan, Librarian -
Kimberly Stelter, Librarian -
Morgan Barker, Instructional Designer -