Promoting
Open Educational Resources
and Other Alternatives
to Traditional Textbooks

Lea Leininger
Health Sciences Librarian
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
http://tinyurl.com/ncdocksleininger
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Topics

➢ Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Open Textbooks

➢ UNCG Libraries – Textbook Support, Promoting Alternatives

➢ OER Mini-Grant Pilot Project

➢ Acknowledgements, References, Resources

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Open Educational Resources (OERs)

Teaching, learning, research resources[1]
(courses, textbooks, videos, other)

➢ Available online
➢ In public domain or [licensed for] free use
and repurposing by others

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Open Textbooks

OpenStax College Textbooks, Rice University

Challenges

Barriers to faculty adoption [2, 3]

- Content availability
- Some lack exercises/quizzes
- Uncertainty about licensing/rights
- Lack of institutional support

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UNCG Libraries

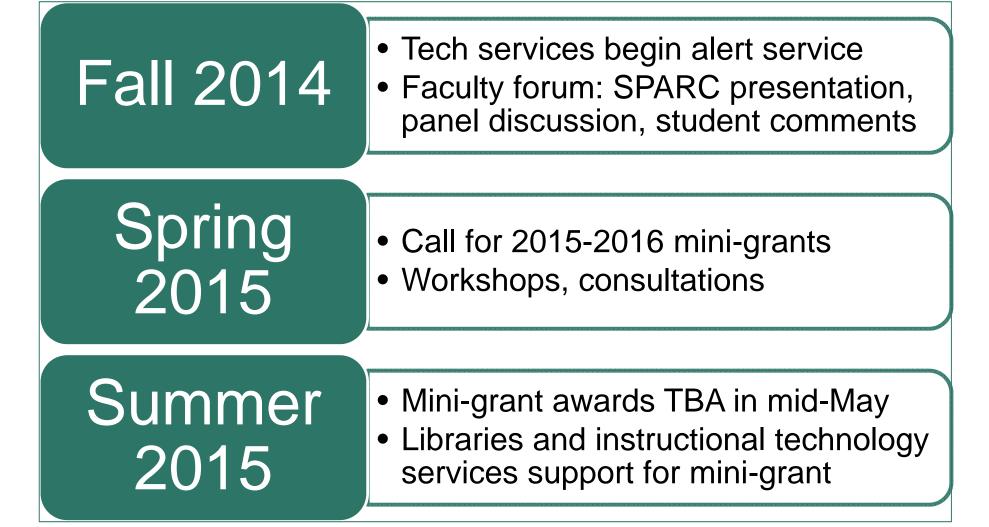UNCG Libraries: Main and Music branch

- Serve 18,000 students undergraduate to doctoral
- Online programs: nursing, kinesiology, public health education

Textbook Support (before fall 2014)

- No textbook fund/collection
- Print and e-reserve services

Promoting Textbook Alternatives

Fall 2014
- Tech services begin alert service
- Faculty forum: SPARC presentation, panel discussion, student comments

Spring 2015
- Call for 2015-2016 mini-grants
- Workshops, consultations

Summer 2015
- Mini-grant awards TBA in mid-May
- Libraries and instructional technology services support for mini-grant

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Mini-Grants

Ten $1,000 awards
- Replace textbooks with open, free, or library-licensed alternatives
- Preference for proposals to create content
- Articles, videos, other formats are acceptable - requests to digitize commercial textbooks are not!

Faculty workshops, consultations
- Finding sources
- Licensing concerns
- Creating digital media
- Integrating resources into BB/Canvas

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Award Applications

Brief online form[5]

- Course: number of students, textbook cost
- Plan, challenges anticipated, support needed, assessment

24 submissions

- Reviewed by campus-wide Scholarly Communication Committee

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Next Steps

- Applicant notification
- Liaison librarian and instructional technology consultant support
- Follow-up and assessment

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Acknowledgements

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and instructors and support personnel open to exploration!

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References

1. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Open Educational Resources. http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources

2. OpenStax College, Rice University. https://openstaxcollege.org/faculty

3. Allen & Seaman (2014). Opening the Curriculum: Open Education Resources in U.S. Higher Education. http://www.onlinelearningsurvey.com/oer.html

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References, cont'd

4. Billings, M. (2014). Seeking Alternatives to High-cost Textbooks: A Case Study of the UMass Amherst Open Education Initiative. http://works.bepress.com/marilyn_billings/55

5. OER Mini-Grants: http://uncg.libguides.com/OER

Recommended Resources

- Cost of Textbooks: What Students Say [video]. UNCG Digital Media Commons.
- Find OER (Open Professionals Education Network)
- MERLOT II Science and Technology
- OER Impact Map
- OER Policy Registry (CC Wiki)
- School of Open (coordinated by Creative Commons and Peer 2 Peer University)

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