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Adopting OER Across the University

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OER Adopt and Adapt Grant Results

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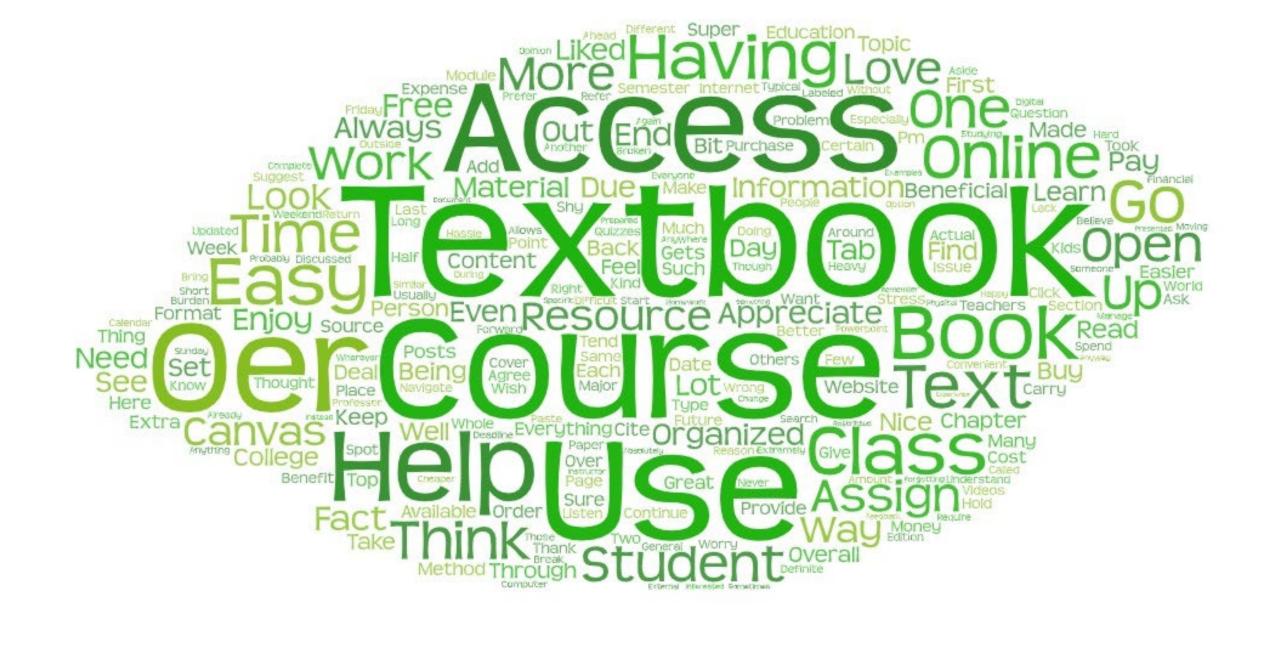
Introduction

We were recipients of the 2019 OER Adapt and Adopt Grant. We used these grants to convert several courses to Open Educational Resources, and to employ Open Pedagogical Practices in our Courses:

- Introduction to Philosophy (Peterson)
- Human Growth and Development (Bergstrom)
- Literary Theory and Criticism (Desjardins)
- Mathematics and Liberal Arts (Steele)

Tips on Implementing OER

- Save Online Textbooks (or chapters) as pdfs and upload to Canvas. This allows a consistent textbook despite possible changes and can be easier for students to access.
- Feel free to supplement OERs with other materials. This content allows for (and encourages!) flexibility.
- If students prefer printed materials, remind them that they can print up to 200 pages per month for free at Greeley Public Libraries and on Campus for a small cost.
- Adding the content from the OER directly to Canvas allows for better ease of access.



Benefits of OER

- Saves students money
- Less stressful for the students (one less thing to buy at the beginning of the semester)
- Introductory level 100 courses have lots of OER material from which to choose
- Instructors have a little more flexibility with what to teach; they can use multiple textbooks in a class without worrying about the cost to the students.
- No student complaints about "buying a book and never using it"
- In addition, Open Pedagogy Practices can provide many benefits:
 - Supports student centered learning
 - Supports a growth mindset by encouraging student-student learning and student-instructor feedback
 - Assignments can adapt to student needs

OER OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

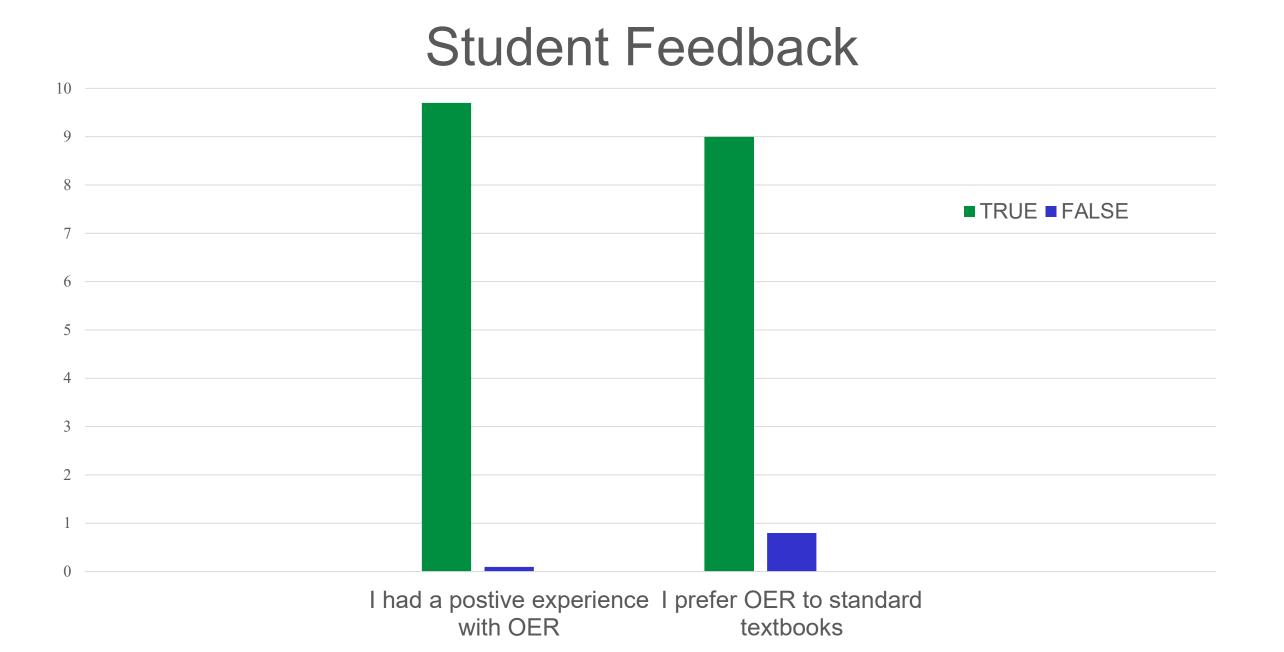
Challenges

While we found many benefits, there were also challenges to adopting OER.

- The availability of OER textbooks varies by field and level. In some more specialized courses, there may not be existing content.
- OERs typically don't have the same level of instructor resource support as texts published by companies.
- Students may struggle if they encounter internet access issues.

Student Feedback

The biggest reason to adopt OER is student feedback! Here are results from two semesters of a 100-level LAC course:



Comments from Students

I loved the approach to texts in this class. I am a nontraditional student that is working my way through my degree while providing for a family. Not having to worry about the cost of textbooks for a course made such a big impact for us. Academically I think that having it be in the open format with each resource separate made the material more accessible, since sometimes a large textbook on a dense subject can be a bit daunting. It was easier to process in smaller pieces."

The fact that it was all online made it easier and more convenient to access, I have a problem at forgetting things but having the text online meant I had it wherever I went. The website was super easy to navigate and easy to find the material I needed without much of a problem.

I really enjoyed having the online open resources. I felt that I used them more than I typically use physical textbooks, because they were always at my fingertips online and very convenient. Also, they seemed really pertinent to what we were learning.

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