

IUPUI Celebrates Open Education with 1st annual award

JUSTIN KANI
Business/SPEA & OER Librarian
University Library
IUPUI

RACHEL HINRICHS
Health Sciences & OER Librarian
University Library
IUPUI

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Creation of an Annual Open Education Award and Reception

This year, in an effort to celebrate Open Education week and to boost the visibility of Open Educational Resources (OERs) on campus, IUPUI librarians established an annual award and corresponding event dedicated to celebrating IUPUI professors who have committed to integrating OERs into their coursework. In a four-month period, we developed the award, sought nominations, selected a winner, and hosted an Open Education Award Ceremony.

While other universities, including Texas A&M (2019) and the University of Tennessee (2018), have implemented OER awards as part of established programs, IUPUI's award is unique in its development and use as a tool to facilitate outreach for our newly implemented program. Initially, we were not aware how many faculty members on campus were already using OERs in their classrooms. So we sought self-nominations from faculty that have successfully integrated OERs into the classroom, whether by using an available OER or creating one of their own. In an effort to encourage as many nominations as possible, we left the criteria fairly loose, but gave special consideration to faculty who mentioned open licensing, shared resources of their own creation, and demonstrated an on-going commitment to OERs. Our goal was three nominations with a reach goal of five, but to our delight, we ended up receiving eight nominations. By advertising the award broadly and soliciting self-nominations, we gained a better understanding of the number of faculty currently using OERs and those faculty members who could serve as 'champions' in efforts to save students money.

On March 7th, 2019 we hosted an award reception for the nominees with over 20 in attendance. All nominees received a certificate and a poster with their name, photo, and description of their use of OERs in the classroom. The award winner was announced during the reception, and was given a plaque and a \$500 cash prize. The award reception served as a venue to not only reward and further incentivize OER use, but also to connect like-minded individuals and spark conversations. We identified several potential collaborators as a result of interactions at the reception.

Dr. Robin Janson was named this year's awardee. Dr. Janson is a Clinical Assistant Professor from the School of Health and Human Sciences' Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Janson used a free, downloadable open source repository of digital designs (Thingiverse) to create a proportional upper limb bone anatomical model that can be 3D printed and assembled. Thingiverse is an open website that allows people to make, share, and discover 3D models. In addition to using the upper limb models during classroom and lab instruction, students are able to check out the models for home study. We felt this was a unique use of OERs, and appreciated that Dr. Janson shared her model on Thingiverse under a Creative Commons license for other people to use.

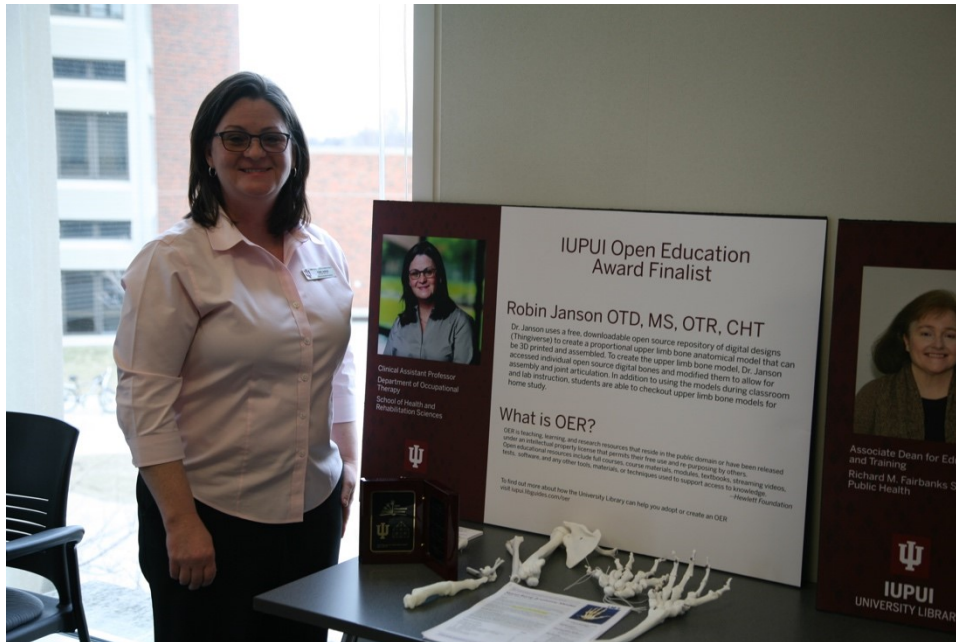


Photo of Dr. Robin Janson, winner of the 2019 annual award (Attribution 4.0 International Gary Maixner)

We wanted this award to not only incentivize and award faculty, but also to increase awareness on campus about open education. After the reception, we hung the nominees' posters in display cases in the library to increase awareness among students, faculty, and staff about open education and what our faculty have been doing. We also posted IUPUI and student-facing press releases.

Overall, this project was a success. We created and delivered the award in four months, received twice the anticipated nominations, and had a turnout of over 20 attendees at the reception.

Lessons Learned

- Use a project management tool. The planning, promotion, and budgeting of the award started in late October of 2018. Using the project management tool [Trello](#) greatly assisted in keeping the project on track on a tight deadline, keeping the entire team

aware of what tasks needed to be completed, and allowing for easy communication about tasks.

- Meet often. For this project, the working group met every week. Scheduling weekly meeting was an important component in ensuring that the project was successful. It allowed the group to be flexible and change due dates as challenges arose.
- Invite key stakeholders. Consider inviting the nominee's department chair or dean to the awards. Also think about inviting allies such as Center for Teaching and Learning, University Information Technology Services, or Student Affairs.

Plans for next year

The OER committee plans to build on the award's momentum by working with faculty who have identified interest in incorporating OERs for the summer and fall semesters. Furthermore, the committee plans to work on a similar event highlighting faculty OA work during Open Access Week in Fall 2019. If you have any questions about IUPUI's process, feel free to reach out to Rachel Hinrichs or Justin Kani.

The authors would like to acknowledge the work of our OER Awards Planning Committee colleagues: Gary Maixner, Caitlin Pollock, Jere Odell and Ted Polley.

References

Texas A&M University Libraries (2019). Open educational materials awards. Retrieved from http://library.tamu.edu/services/scholarly_communication/open_ed_awards.html

University of Tennessee – Knoxville University Libraries. (2018). SGA make awards to faculty who use Open Resources. Retrieved from <https://www.lib.utk.edu/news/2018/04/sga-oer-awards/>