

TRANSCRIPT - *Pandemic Progress: Unexpected Achievements in Unprecedented Times*

SLIDE 1: *Pandemic Progress: Unexpected Achievements in Unprecedented Times*

Robbie Pock: Hello and welcome to our presentation: *Pandemic Progress: Unexpected Achievements in Unprecedented Times*.

SLIDE 2: Pacific University OER Committee

Robbie Pock: We're coming to you from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. The slides and other materials will be available upon request and hopefully the slides will be available to you through the conference. Our contact information will also be at the end of the presentation.

SLIDE 3: Who we are

Robbie Pock: This is who we are

SLIDE 4: Photo of Meagan Button, Electronic Resources Specialist (Chair)

Meagan Button: Hello, my name is Meagan Button, and I'm the Electronic Resources Specialist for Pacific University Libraries, and also the chair of the OER committee.

SLIDE 5: Photo of Robbie Pock, Instructional Designer

Robbie Pock: I'm Robbie Pock, I'm an instructional designer, with the Center for Educational Technology and Curricular Innovation at Pacific University.

SLIDE 6: Photo of Michelle Lenox, Acquisitions and Cataloging Manager

Michelle Lenox: I'm Michelle Lenox the Acquisitions and Cataloging Manager at Pacific University Libraries.

SLIDE 7: Photo of Jerica Tullo, Interlibrary Services Manager

Jerica Tullo: I am Jerica Tullo. I am the Interlibrary Services Manager at Pacific University Libraries.

SLIDE 8: OER Committee

Robbie Pock: And together we are the OER Committee at Pacific University Libraries.

SLIDE 9: How we got here

Robbie Pock: And here's a little bit about how we got here.

SLIDE 10: Timeline Graphic

Meagan Button: In a 2017 student survey, students expressed that textbook affordability should be a priority for the library's resource allocation. So when we started working on our next strategic plan, we created the OER committee to address that need. Our charge was to develop a sustainable plan to support adoption and creation of OER's, and reduce the cost of course materials for students. This sounds simple enough, but actually getting started was more challenging than we expected.

SLIDE 11: Scope & Focus

Michelle Lenox: During our first year as the OER Committee, we struggled to narrow down and define our focus. As we began to research as a group, the goals we set for ourselves kept changing, but we were able to find two initial projects to focus on.

SLIDE 12: LibGuide

Michelle Lenox: First, we redesigned our existing OER Libguide to be aimed more at those at the beginning of their OER journey. We added an overview of OERs, a virtual petting zoo, and a list of some of the best OER aggregators.

SLIDE 13: Cataloging

Michelle Lenox: Second, we cataloged the libguide titles so they would show up in our discovery layer, including record enhancements to maximize access and facilitate instruction. These projects were good first steps, but our conversations kept returning to other library initiatives, such as Interlibrary Loan, course reserves, and request-a-purchase, that existed across library departments.

SLIDE 14: Textbook Affordability Project

Jerica Tullo: One example is the library's textbook affordability project. This project analyzed a list of 255 undergraduate textbooks assigned during one term and found that 159 did not have ebooks available for the library to purchase. This highlighted a discrepancy between what worked before the pandemic and what works now, and inspired us to keep working to reduce student costs.

As a result of this project, a pilot began for buying all titles that had unlimited-user ebook editions. Though a relatively small percentage of required texts are available in this format, this expanded purchasing helps some students who have lost access to print reserves due to COVID, and it also expands access generally.

SLIDE 15: Expanded Services

Jerica Tullo: The Libraries also expanded existing purchase request and interlibrary loan programs, and became more flexible with policies. This included removing price caps on requests, allowing students to request ebook purchases, and shipping requested materials to our patrons directly from the vendor, sometimes to keep. We found that these expansions were effective and sustainable.

Until these conversations about non-OER affordable learning projects began within the OER group, people outside the departments involved in these projects had limited knowledge of their existence. There was room to grow the promotion of knowledge and programs with interested stakeholders, and it was clear that there were intersections with the goals of OER initiatives.

SLIDE 16: Breakthrough

Robbie Pock: None of us expected this past year to be a breakthrough year.

SLIDE 17: Some success but still unfocused

Robbie Pock: We were happy to have made tangible progress on our OER work, but our efforts were still unfocused. How would we get these tools into the line of vision of the people who could use them (namely faculty)? Where did we go from here? How did these things fit into a larger OER plan? What would a larger OER even plan look like for us?

SLIDE 18: Pandemic Pressure [arrow] Promising (non-OER) Projects

Robbie Pock: And what about the pandemic-related projects in other parts of the libraries? Those projects were addressing the real and very pressing needs students were experiencing. Trying to reconcile these things brought us to a critical question:

SLIDE 19: Big(ger) idea

Robbie Pock: What if instead of restricting our thinking to OER, we considered a bigger category that could hold not only the OER work, but also the other important non-OER projects that were making learning more affordable for our students *right now*?

SLIDE 20: "Affordable Learning @ Pacific"

Robbie Pock: And then we had this idea for an integrative conceptual framework. Affordable Learning at Pacific. This way we could coordinate these various projects--some of them OER and some of them outside the scope of "open"--under a single umbrella.

SLIDE 21: Affordable Learning @ Pacific University Infographic

Robbie Pock: With this tool, we can ensure that the various projects that kept complicating our conversations are all pulling in the same direction, working toward the same goal of making learning more affordable for students.

We want to make a quick note here that we know the concept of Affordable Learning is not necessarily a breakthrough in the field, but for us, it was the key to grounding & contextualizing OER efforts at our institution where there is no OER department, no OER Librarian. Without the budget for a dedicated department for OER or even for Textbook Affordability, we had to organize and coordinate these things conceptually because the people doing this work are scattered in different departments throughout the Libraries.

SLIDE 22: Continuing Progress

Meagan Button: When we started refining our resources and really honing in on the ways we could help students save money, a lot of things happened for us,

SLIDE 23: Timeline graphic again

Meagan Button: And it was really across all of the columns in our plan:

SLIDE 24: Library-Purchased Resources Progress

Meagan Button: We were able to launch the textbook purchasing project mentioned earlier

SLIDE 25: Outreach, Education & Partnership Progress

Meagan Button: Then, through a little networking and a happy coincidence, we piqued the interest of Pacific's College of Arts and Sciences, who then reached out and asked us to present to all of their faculty. We are now partnering with them to provide mini-grants for faculty to adopt open resources and revise their courses.

SLIDE 26: Open Educational Resources Progress

Meagan Button: We were able to bring an OER expert in to provide training for the library staff

SLIDE 27: Progress Across All 3 Columns - Faculty Select

Meagan Button: And since we had therefore demonstrated that there really was faculty and student interest, we were able to quickly acquire Ebsco's Faculty Select database to make search and adoption easier for our faculty. This one really applies to all three columns, so we're pretty excited about it.

SLIDE 28: It's not what we expected . . . But we'll take it!

When the realities of the pandemic became clear last spring, our committee agreed to temper our expectations for making any real progress until “things got back to normal”. It's becoming clear now that things might never go back to how they were before. And as far as Affordable Learning goes, that might be a good thing, at least at Pacific. Amid plenty of losses, this year, handed our OER committee some key wins, and we plan to run with them!

SLIDE 29: Contact information

Robbie Pock: Please feel free to contact us. We would love to continue the conversation.