10-20-2022

# Facilitating an Engaging Regional Open Education Conference Online: OpenCon Cleveland

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- Melanie Gagich, PhD, Senior College Lecturer

- Mandi Goodsett, OER & Copyright Advisor / Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian

- Marsha Miles, Asst. Director for Collections & Resource Management

- Ben Richards, Business & Communication Librarian

Cleveland State University

# Introduction to OpenCon Cleveland

- OpenCon Cleveland is a regional conference
- Launched as face-to-face event at Cleveland State University in 2018
- Successfully shifted to a virtual format in 2021
- The shift did not disrupt attendance

| Year | Participants | Format |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 2019 | 70 attendees | Face-to-Face |
| 2020 | 99 attendees | Face-to-Face |
| 2021 | Approximately 196 people | Virtual |
| 2022 | Approximately 141 people | Virtual |

# The OpenCon Cleveland Planning Committee

- 2018-2021 - institutional participation only
- 2022 - broadened members with members from other institutions
- Diverse group (librarians, instructional designers, administrators, faculty) provides opportunities for:
  - A variety of expertise
  - Multiple points of view
  - Reduced workload

# Current OpenCon Cleveland Planning Committee

- Mandi Goodsett, (Committee Chair 2018-2022) Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library

- Ben Richards (Committee Co-Chair 2023), Business & Communication Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library

- Laura Ray (Committee Co-Chair 2023), Outreach & Instructional Services Librarian, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

- Barbara Loomis, Digital Scholarly Publications and Programs Administrator, Michael Schwartz Library

- Marsha Miles, Asst. Director for Collections & Resource Management, Michael Schwartz Library

- Heather Caprette, Sr. Media Developer/Instructional Designer, Center for eLearning

- Melanie Gagich, Senior College Lecturer, First-Year Writing Program

- Cuyahoga Community College:
  - Kevin Dranuski, Senior Instructional Designer, Center for Learning Excellence (CLE)

- Ohio Dominican University:
  - Anna Davis, Associate Professor & Department Head, Mathematics Department

- The Ohio State University:
  - Amanda Larson, Affordable Learning Instructional Consultant, University Libraries

# Retaining Interactivity Online

Timeline:

OpenCon Cleveland 2020 – February 27th + February 28th held on campus

CSU campus announces 'temporary' closure on March 17th (many of us do not return to campus full time until July 2021).

OpenCon Cleveland 2021 – May 12th – 14th, Synchronous day May 14th

OpenCon Cleveland 2022 – May 16th – 20th, Synchronous day May 20th

Takeaway: The timing of our first virtual OpenCon Cleveland allowed us to consider our experience with other virtual conferences and events, and to take what we learned for OpenCon Cleveland 2022.

# What we felt like we'd be missing

Real engagement between attendees and presenters

Opportunities for professional networking and sharing expertise

The fun or social aspects of conferences

# OpenCon Cleveland Virtual Model

**Asynchronous (Slack)**

- Prerecorded lightning talks presented in Slack

- Audience interaction with presenters and other attendees on Slack

**Synchronous (Zoom)**

- Panel sessions with lightning presenters and additional presenters

- Keynote presentations

# Slack as a conference platform

- Slack is a message platform, built around #channels and discussion threads
- Slack allowed for asynchronous communication and served as structure for navigating the conference.
- #networking channels allowed for discussion outside of the conference presentations, and #social channels gave us a fun way to engage with attendees
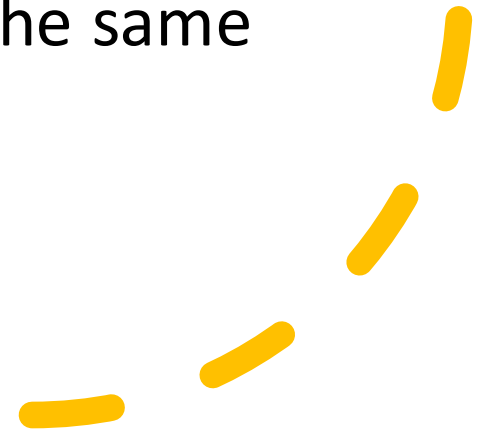
# lightning-awareness-and-support-of-oer-initi...
# lightning-building-an-inclusive-open-educati...
# lightning-collaboratively-creating-oer-resour...
# lightning-facilitating-open-and-affordable-co...
# lightning-faculty-perceptions-of-an-oer-stipe...
# lightning-fostering-collaboration-in-the-cleve...
# lightning-how-to-transform-a-course-with-o...
# lightning-librarian-faculty-partnership-on-an-...
# lightning-open-textbooks-to-open-career-pa...
# lightning-tailoring-and-adapting-exisiting-op...
# live-keynote
# live-library-content-and-targeted-course-mar...
# live-ohiolink-oer-course-redesign-panel
# live-open-question-sets-and-exercises

# social-dance-party
# social-introductions
# social-office-trinkets
# social-snack-table

# networking-accomplishments
# networking-ask-a-question
# networking-collaborators

# Limitations and alternatives

- 'Virtual wayfinding' and scheduling in Slack
- Free tier of Slack limitations:
  - Archives up to 10,000 messages
  - Now only archives messages for 90 days
- Various other Slack equivalents exist, including some open-source options that could be supported by an institution's Information technology department
- Notably, Discord does not have the same message history limitations

# Retaining Regional Flavor



- Why retain a regional flavor?
- Inviting local folks to present
  - OhioLINK's OER Course Redesign Mini-grant Program
- Inviting local participation in planning
  - Additional planning committee members

# Accessibility

- Asynchronous Presentations
  - Captions

- Synchronous Presentations
  - Live transcripts

OpenCon Cleveland 2022 Presenter Guide

2. YouTube will automatically create captions for your uploaded video. The captions can take several hours to appear. Once the captions are available on YouTube, you will need to make corrections to the automatically generated captions. To review and edit the captions for your video:

- Go to studio.youtube.com and log in.
- Click on 'Content' in the left navigation bar.
- Find your video and click the Pencil icon (Details button).
- Click on 'Subtitles' in the left navigation bar.
- You will see an option for English (Automatic). Click on the 'Duplicate and Edit' button. Here you can edit the text of your subtitles. You can view the captions as a block of text, or you can click 'Assign Timings' to see subtitles with timestamps.
- Click 'Save Draft' to save your edits. Click 'Publish' to publish the edited subtitles.

Tutorial video for editing YouTube subtitles (created by Online Network of Educators)

# Participation

- Invitation shared across wide geographic area
- Feedback indicated an appreciation for online/asynchronous component

# Questions?

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# Resources and Links

OpenCon Cleveland 2022:

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/oa/opencon2022/

Presenter Guide:

https://tinyurl.com/437766cs