

Developing OER Publishing Support: A Case Study

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Background

The University of Houston (UH) launched its OER program in 2018, with the goal to replace commercial textbook adoptions with the adoption, adaptation, or creation of OER. UH does not have an established library publishing program and at the time was new to offering OER support.

In response to faculty interest in OER publishing, UH began developing support in this area while balancing limited resources and capacity for substantial growth.

Current Model

Services offered for OER publishing include:

- Funding via an incentive program (\$500-\$2,500)
- Publishing platform (Pressbooks)
- Consultations (copyright, Creative Commons)

UH does not provide or facilitate many publishing services, such as peer review, editing, and design.

Faculty OER authors have to be comfortable leading and completing their projects with minimal publishing support from the Libraries.

Timeline

2018

Environmental scan of potential tools to support OER and digital publishing projects

Selected Pressbooks as a tool to support OER publishing

2019

Promoted Pressbooks to faculty

Pressbooks training webinar for faculty

Increased knowledge through ongoing professional development

Increase in publishing support via Pressbooks tech support and ad hoc consultations

Re-evaluated program priorities; determined robust publishing support is not sustainable given current goals and resources

2020

Gaining external support through Rebus Textbook Success Program (for one project)

Lessons Learned

Limited capacity to increase level of support

OER publishing support, even at the basic level offered at UH, takes significant time and resources. Pressbooks greatly eases the process for faculty, though also increases time spent on training and tech support.

Alignment with OER program goals

Our primary goal is to impact student success via OER adoptions. This can include developing open content, however, publishing is not in our mission. In order to scale up high-impact adoptions, it is important to consider when publishing is a priority activity and the appropriate level of resources to invest.

It doesn't have to be perfect

We are still learning and growing. It is important to acknowledge the iterative nature of developing new services and accept that it won't be perfect right away.

Resources

Access this poster at: bit.ly/lpf20santiago

UH Libraries OER: libraries.uh.edu/oer

UH Libraries Pressbooks: uhlibraries.pressbooks.pub