Print Pathways in OER
Hello!

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SUNY OER Services (SOS)
Do we even need print OER?

“All online” is not for all...

Instructors
- In-class participation
- “OER anxiety”

Students
- Offline access
- Professor-created material not tied to royalties
- Annotation
- Retention of ownership
  - Renting

People Thought by Gan Khoon Lay from thenounproject.com
Post-covid Print OER?

“All online” is not for all...

... except for when it is.

Transferable concerns:

- **Offline access**
  - “Some of the things that were once invisible have become visible.” — Nicole Allen, SPARC

- Retention of ownership
  - Flexing copyright in times of crisis is not a long-term solution
To rent or not to rent?

That is (often) the question.

- Retaining material after you’re done with the class
- Rentals ≠ “cheap”
- Need an access code?
  - $$
SOS Print Initiative
SOS’s motivations for print

- Facilitate offline access
- Meet student print preferences
  - “Strong’ Reasons” for preference
    - ease of use
    - readability
    - portability
    - ease of highlighting/note taking

(Abuloum, Farah, Kaskaloglu, Yaakub, 2019)
Even if generational characteristics were true . . . if you designed around them, you’d be intentionally alienating the marginal students . . . minority populations, outliers . . . the people who most need us to see them.

— Robin DeRosa
@actualham
SOS resources

- Pressbooks instance
  - requires speciality plugins/add-ons
- ISBNs through SUNY Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS)
- Partnership w/ SUNY Press
  - resources
  - experience
- Lightning Source — print vendor
  - POD
  - ease of ordering for bookstores
- A dedicated full-time employee
Challenges

“Challenge” by Adrian Coquet, thenounproject.com
Pricing & affordability

Print is not free.

● Color printing
● Book size (page #)
● “Publisher compensation”
● Sustainability & longevity?
Streamlined process

Every print order is unique and can present learning curves.

- **PDF creation**
  - source file struggles
  - author/faculty review

- **Coordination w/ print vendor**

- **Coordination w/ bookstores**
  - student financial aid
  - markups
Results

search results by Arthur Shlain from the Noun Project
Since 2017...

$16 million
Saved in textbook costs by SUNY students

75 SOS-printed textbooks
4+ original works

47% of SUNY students
Buying SOS books
Expansive Distribution

= Increased Accessibility

Amazon search:
"state university of new york oer"
Future?
Battle between digital & print?

- Some say:
  - “We need to encourage students to utilize digital books and learning tools over print.”

- While others:
  - “We need to meet students where they’re at.”

Both are valid.

- **Together**, we should say:
  - “We need to address the systemic issues that burden students either way.”
Thanks!

Any questions?
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References

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