Enhancing Discoverability of OER:

Promoting Collaborative Repository Workflows

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Outline

History of OER at UH

OER at UH

2018 — OER program launched

Began using Pressbooks for OER publishing

2020 — Deposited OER to institutional repository

Initial push, but not part of regular practice

2022 — Revised and improved process, creating OER + IR Workflow

Open Education Services Department formed, gained new Metadata Services Coordinator

Incorporated workflow into regular practice

UH Libraries
OER + IR Workflow

Objectives

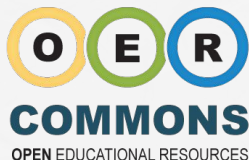**Increase discoverability of OER within available tools and systems**

Pressbooks
- Starting point and publishing platform for faculty creators

Cougar ROAR Institutional Repository:
- Increase discoverability
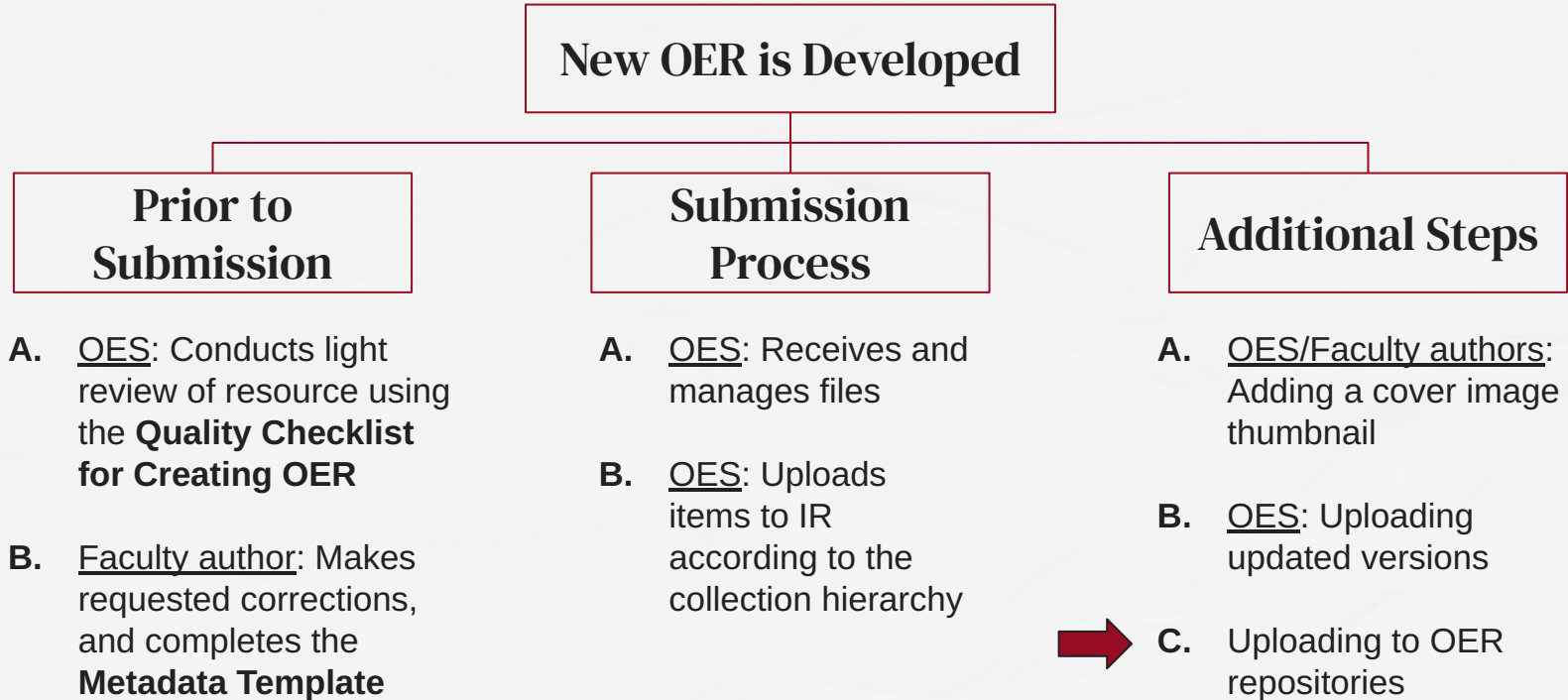- Archiving and preservation

OER repositories & referatories
- Share and promote to those seeking OER
- E.g., OER Commons, Open Textbook Library, OERTX

OER + IR Workflow Overview

New OER is Developed

Prior to Submission

A. <u>OES</u>: Conducts light review of resource using the **Quality Checklist for Creating OER**

B. <u>Faculty author</u>: Makes requested corrections, and completes the **Metadata Template**

Submission Process

A. <u>OES</u>: Receives and manages files

B. <u>OES</u>: Uploads items to IR according to the collection hierarchy

Additional Steps

A. <u>OES/Faculty authors</u>: Adding a cover image thumbnail

B. <u>OES</u>: Uploading updated versions

C. Uploading to OER repositories

Best Practices for Depositing OER

A (very) brief review of literature

Emphasis on IRs

Very few references to best practices for OER repository archival (e.g., Ferguson, 2017; Peter and Baribeau, 2024)

Metadata Schema

Developing and aligning metadata schema with existing standards (e.g., Burnett et al., 2023; Hofer, 2020)

Sustainable Promotion and Preservation

Essential to consider promotion and dissemination (Dickson et al., 2024) and preservation (Hare and Sullivan, 2020) of the OER early in the creation process

Challenges of Ownership and Maintenance

Why Maintaining the Record Is Difficult

Lack of Awareness

Many faculty are unfamiliar with repository processes (Ferguson, 2017)

Lack of Motivation and Time

Faculty creators may lack time, interest, or skills for updating records (Milošević et al., 2024)
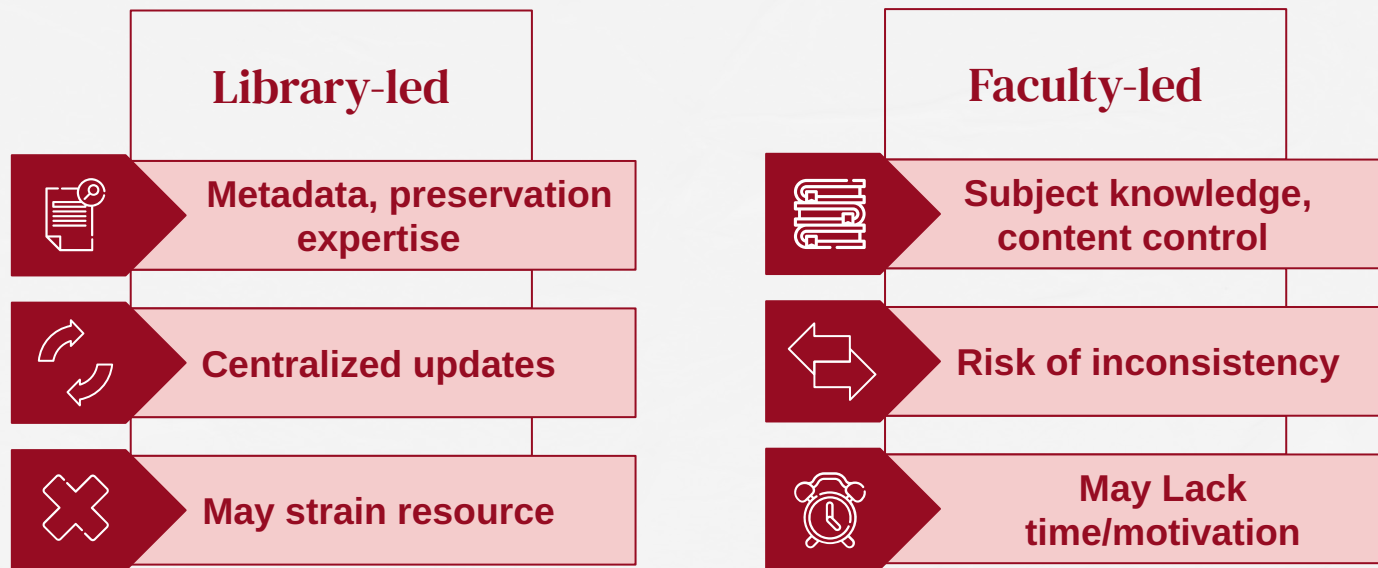
Versioning Issues

No clear standards for updating OER over time; IRs like UHIR must support long–term versioning

Publishing Platforms

IRs focus on preservation, while OER platforms focus on accessibility and use (Schuwer & Janssen, 2024)

Who Should Lead OER Record Maintenance

Library-led

- Metadata, preservation expertise
- Centralized updates
- May strain resource

Faculty-led

- Subject knowledge, content control
- Risk of inconsistency
- May Lack time/motivation

Benefits of Collaborative Models

- Combines faculty's content expertise with librarians' preservation and metadata skills
- Enhances discoverability through standardized metadata and repository visibility
- Shared workflow and maintenance tasks between creators and librarians
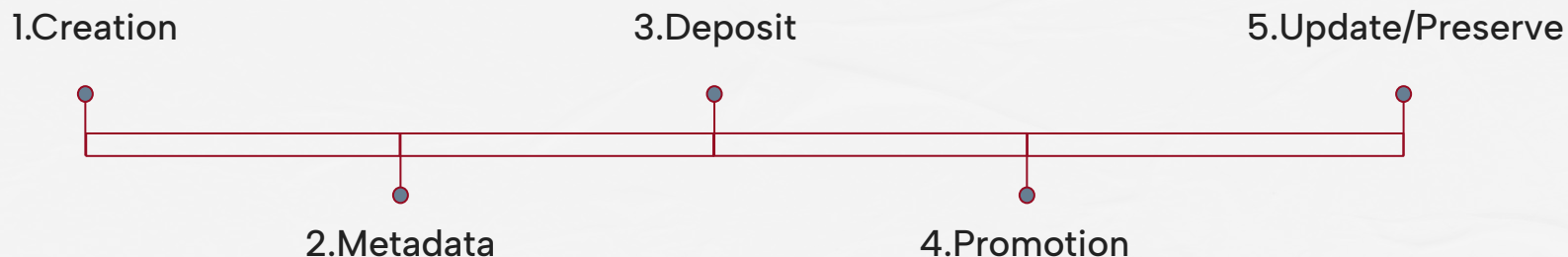- Aligns with best practices recommended in current research (e.g., IFLA, Peter & Baribeau, 2024)

Collaboration and Cooperation by Melitas

Future Approaches

A Collaborative Record Maintenance Model

1.Creation   3.Deposit   5.Update/Preserve

          2.Metadata   4.Promotion

Approach Components:
- Shared responsibility workflow & checklist
- Metadata guidance from libraries
- Faculty–led content creation & Library–led content review
- Dual–deposit strategy (Pressbooks + UHIR)
- Versioning infrastructure (e.g., Crossmark)

Conclusion

Responsibility

Maintaining accurate and discoverable OER is a **shared challenge**

Partnership

Collaborative workflows ensure sustainability and preservation

Benchmarking

The UH model can evolve by integrating practices from current research and peer institutions

Thank you!

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