The Power of Open Education: UMass Amherst's Open Education Initiative, Springboard for New Career Choices

Marilyn S Billings
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UMass Amherst’s Open Education Initiative
Springboard for New Career Choices

Marilyn Billings
Scholarly Communication Librarian
University Libraries

SPARC MORE March 8, 2016
The high cost of commercial print textbooks is a major concern for parents, students, and even the federal government.
BOOKS AND SUPPLIES COST

Source: The College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges.
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: THE 5R FRAMEWORK

Retain
Reuse
Revise
Remix
Redistribute
OERS INCLUDE

Curriculum
- Syllabi
- Content modules

Course materials
- Textbooks
- Assignments
- Simulations
- Learning objects
- Labs

Collections
- Journal articles
- E-books
- Art galleries
- Video libraries

Tools
- Software
- Calculators
- Analytics
FACULTY AWARENESS

HOW AWARE ARE YOU OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)?

SOURCE:
I. Elaine Allen & Jeff Seaman, Babson Survey Research Group
Based on survey responses from over 2,100 national higher education teaching faculty
Infographics by Pearson
STUDENT CHOICES

Textbook Decisions

- 53% not purchased - too expensive
- 35% not taken a class - textbook too expensive
- 24% taken a different class - textbook too expensive
- 23% made different decisions about my education because of student debt

2014 survey of 264 students in OEL classes
UMASS AMHERST PROFILE

- Public Land-grant, Research Intensive University
- Over 28,000 students, 1200 faculty
- 108 bachelor’s, 76 masters, 50 doctorates
The OEI is a faculty incentive program that encourages:

1. the creation of new teaching materials and models
2. the use of existing open (free) information resources to support student learning
3. the use of library subscription materials
4. the development of open technologies
UMASS AMHERST AT WORK

Libraries

Teaching Excellence & Faculty Development

Information Technology
Basic course information
   Number of students
   Current textbook(s) and cost

Anticipated OER implementation date

Narrative (500 words)
   Outcomes
   Sustainability
   Challenges
   Assessment

Photo credit: Derek Jensen aka FireChickenTA99
FACULTY SUCCESS STORIES

Carlos Gradil
- Animal Sciences 421: Fundamentals of Reproduction
- Cost Savings to date: $7,680
- Uses video to teach 3 different classes, a far superior teaching tool than text/static images

Miliann Kang
- Women’s Studies 187: Gender, Sexuality and Culture
- Cost Savings to date: $8,475
- OERs downloaded over 3,600 times, far over initial class of 300 students

Hossein Pishro-Nik
- Electrical and Computer Engineering 314: Introduction to Probability and Random Processes
- Cost Savings to date: $25,833
- Used his book in 6 courses, representing 6 times projected savings ($87,700); other professors are using it as well
POSSIBILITIES WITH OERS

- SPARC agenda: advocacy, education, partnerships
  All things open: access, data, education, science …
- University and College missions
  Engagement, commitment to teaching & learning, student success, social justice
  Inter-office partnerships
- UMass and other successful OER programs
Library staff – OER librarians, liaison roles
IT staff – new IT developments
Teaching & Learning staff – course redevelopment

Building paths toward:
Culture of engaged faculty, staff and administrators
Framework for Student success
Questions/Discussion

Contact Information

*Marilyn Billings*
Scholarly Communication Librarian
University of Massachusetts Amherst

mbillings@library.umass.edu