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7-2020

# Scholarly Communications Report on Activities 2019-20

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# Scholarly Communications Report on Activities 2019-20

## Abstract

2019-20 annual report for Scholarly Communications work at Musselman Library, including Gettysburg College's institutional repository, The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. Covers June 2019-May 2020.

## Keywords

annual report, Scholarly Communications, Musselman Library

## Disciplines

Scholarly Communication

# Musselman Library Scholarly Communications Department Report on Activities
## June 2019-May 2020

## Executive Summary

**Open access and publishing.** During Open Access Week, we co-presented in a national webinar about OER programs at private liberal arts colleges. We also led a session aimed at faculty about author rights and engaged with students in a display about equity in knowledge. Prof. Chuck Kann's OER surpassed 100,000 downloads in The Cupola. While the annual College Author Reception did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we prepared to honor 78 authors who published 116 works in 2019, 67% of which are openly available in The Cupola.

**Textbook affordability and open education.** In the fall, we administered a student textbook survey, met with our new college president, and spoke at a faculty meeting about textbook costs. In the spring, we shared the results of the textbook survey with campus and conducted open textbook workshops to incentivize more faculty to adopt OER.

**Focus on students.** We met with first-year students during orientation to speak with them about textbook costs and to introduce them to publishing opportunities in The Cupola. We helped facilitate student-to-student buying and selling of textbooks as a way to control costs. We worked with student conference organizers who wanted to use The Cupola to house the conference schedule and materials. 91 student works were nominated by faculty for inclusion in The Cupola this year; 26 more works were self-nominated by students.

**The Cupola.** We added over 450 records this year. Our five undergraduate journals each published a new issue (*Gettysburg Social Sciences Review* published two). One new student journal is in development.

# Open Access and Publishing

## Open Access Week 2019

In October, we celebrated [Open Access Week 2019](#) by hosting a webinar screening titled ["OER Programs at Private Liberal Arts Institutions"](#) featuring the department's founder Janelle Wertzberger, as well as Gettysburg Professor of Sociology Alecea Standlee and student assistant Hana Huskic '22. They were joined by colleagues from the University of San Diego to discuss open educational resources at small, private college liberal arts institutions.

The department also sponsored a faculty lunch workshop titled ["Authors' Choices, Authors' Rights: Making informed decisions when publishing open",](#) facilitated by Scholarly Communications Librarian Mary Elmquist. This workshop will covered topics associated with open access publishing including copyright and author rights, open licensing, and more.
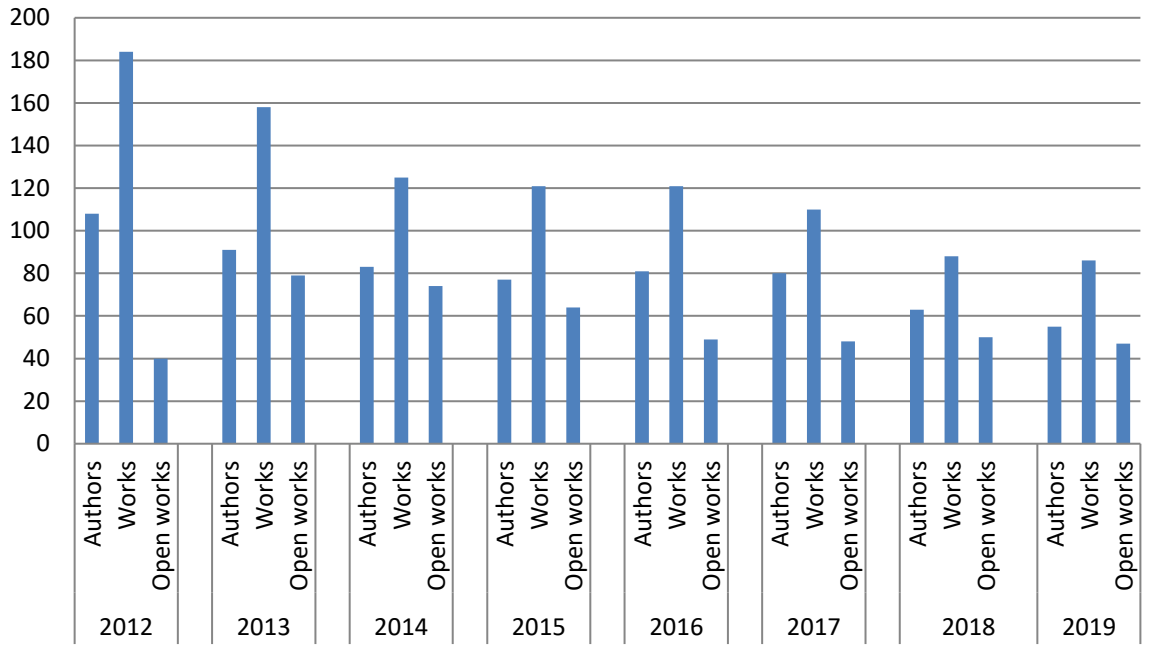
Holley Intern Michelle Williams collaborated with Scholarly Communications Assistant Sarah Appedu '18 and Hana Huskic to create a [display on the main floor](#) celebrating this year's theme of Equity in Open Knowledge by highlighting the global nature of open access publishing.
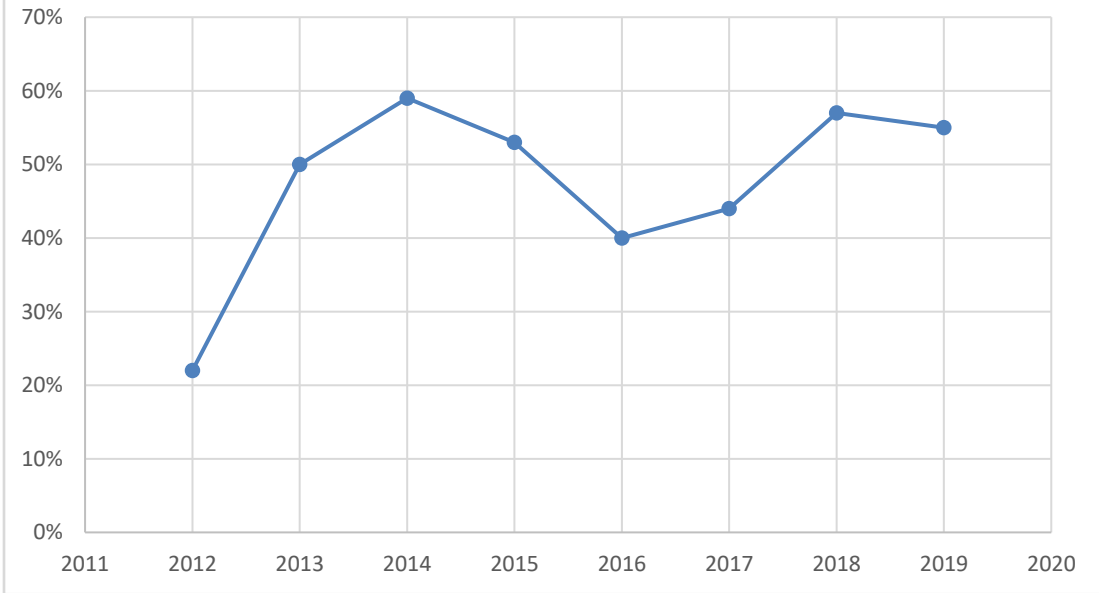
## College Author Reception

The annual College Author Reception is usually hosted by the library in late March to celebrate the published scholarship of Gettysburg faculty, staff, and students from the previous year. However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused campus to close shortly before the reception was scheduled to be held on March 20, 2020. While the reception had to be postponed and ultimately cancelled, the 2019 College Author Reception was prepared to feature the work of 78 authors (23 students) who collectively published 116 works, 67% of which are available on The Cupola (all student works are open). 11 articles by Gettysburg faculty were published in open access journals (not hybrid journals). Assistant Professor of Management Alice Brawley Newlin was set to be our faculty speaker following remarks from President Iuliano and Library Dean Robin Wagner, as well as a performance from the all-male acapella group *Drop the Octave*.

The following charts illustrate the number of faculty/staff publications honored at each reception, as well as what percentage of those were open in The Cupola. Our data begins in 2012. 2019 was consistent with previous years.

# College Authors Reception - Faculty/Staff Publications

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Authors | 108 | 91 | 83 | 77 | 81 | 80 | 63 | 55 |
| Works | 184 | 158 | 125 | 121 | 121 | 110 | 88 | 86 |
| Open works | 40 | 79 | 74 | 64 | 49 | 48 | 50 | 47 |

Vertical axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200

# Percent of Faculty/Staff Publications that are Open Access

| Year | Percent |
|---|---|
| 2012 | 22% |
| 2013 | 50% |
| 2014 | 59% |
| 2015 | 53% |
| 2016 | 40% |
| 2017 | 44% |
| 2018 | 57% |
| 2019 | 55% |

Vertical axis: 0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%
Horizontal axis: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

# Textbook Affordability and Open Education

**Fall 2019 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey.** In Spring 2019, the Scholarly Communications Department started planning for a campus-wide student textbook survey to be administered originally in the Spring 2019 semester, but was pushed back to Fall 2019 as to not conflict with a similar but unrelated survey from the Bookstore. The survey was administered during the first three weeks of the Fall 2019 semester and received 438 responses. The most meaningful results of the survey have been complied in the [Student Gettysburg and Course Materials Survey Executive Summary](#) and were shared with the campus community at a [Friday Forum presentation](#) on February 28, 2020.

**Administrative Interest in Textbook Affordability.** In September 2019, new Gettysburg College President Bob Uiliano requested a meeting with Janelle Wertzberger to learn more about textbook affordability and open textbooks. This conversation led to an invitation to present at a faculty meeting in December ([What's Up with Textbooks?](#)), after which 39 faculty expressed interest in learning more, as well as a followup meeting with the academic deans in January. The president's interest was critical in getting this message to a wider group.

**Open Education and Open Education Week.** In the spring, the Scholarly Communications department sponsored several activities for students and faculty to learn about open education and to celebrate Open Education Week (officially held from March 2 – 6). At the February 28 Friday Forum, we shared the results of the Fall 2019 textbook survey (see ["I spent my whole summer's wages…on books alone": Gettysburg College Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey](#)).

We scheduled the Friday Forum presentation so that faculty interested in learning more could attend a workshop during Open Education Week (see [Open Textbooks: Access, Affordability, and Academic Success 2020](#)). We modified the 2019 workshop with the same title, but still followed the Open Textbook Network model, which pairs workshop attendance with the opportunity to review an open textbook and earn a small stipend ($200). We offered the workshop twice during the week in order to provide more flexibility for potential attendees. We also included faculty speakers as part of the workshop design; Alecea Standlee (Sociology) and Patturaja Selvaraj (Management) shared their own experiences adopting open textbooks at one workshop. Stipends were sponsored by the Johnston Center for Creative Teaching & Learning and the Associate Provost for Faculty Development. 30 people registered for a session, 25 attended. 20 attendees were eligible to review a text for the stipend; 10 submitted book reviews. 3 expressed their intention to adopt the book they reviewed for a course, and 3 (including one who did not submit a review) stated that they may adopt an open book.
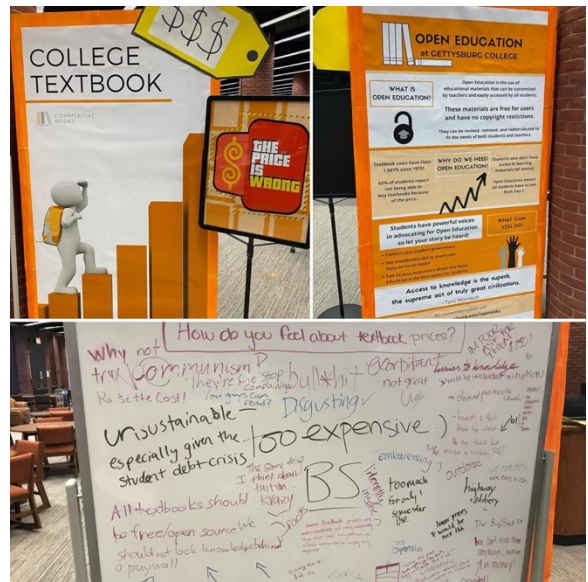


For students, two activities were featured on the main Level of the library during Open Education Week, both developed by Holley Intern Michelle Williams. The first was a large textbook prop featuring information about open education. This was paired with a prompt on a whiteboard that students could respond to throughout the week. The second activity was a game: "The Price is Wrong," in which students were invited to guess the price of three economics textbooks—one commercial text, one digital open text, and one print edition of the same open text—in a game show format.

# Focus on students

**First-year student orientation.** In late August, our department participated in *Charting Your Course*, **an extended orientation program** for first-year students. We facilitated an activity about textbook prices while talking with students about our department's work on textbook affordability. Students also screened a [short video](#) (created by Scholarly Communications Assistant Sarah Appedu '18) about The Cupola and the possibilities it offers students to engage in a global scholarly conversation. It includes the story of how readership of a paper by Dayna Seeger '15 about Muslim women and U.S. health care spiked after being cited in *Cosmo*.

**Textbook swap board.** In order to help facilitate book swaps between students, we created a Textbook Swap board on the main floor of the library where students could post the books they were hoping to buy or sell from their classmates. The board was also up during the first week of the Spring semester.

**CONAPP preparation.** In Fall 2019, Scholarly Communications Assistant Sarah Appedu '18 met with a student organizer from the [Consortium of North American Peace Programs undergraduate conference](#), scheduled to be hosted at Gettysburg College in June 2020, to discuss creating a conference structure in The Cupola in order to collect author submissions as well as archive the presentations. However, the conference was rescheduled to June 2021 due to COVID-19, as well as the plans for developing the website.

**Faculty nominate student works for The Cupola.** We received **91 nominations of student work from faculty** this year (18 fall + 73 spring). Departments with the most nominations include History (24), Health Sciences (10), Political Science (9), Public Policy (8), and English (8).

**Students self-nominate work for The Cupola.** Spring 2019 was the first time Student Nominations were heavily publicized, and we expected to see an increase in this practice. We **received 26 student self-nominations** this year (10 fall + 16 spring), all of which were approved by the faculty and published to The Cupola.

**Student-faculty co-authorship.** During this fiscal year, **students co-authored with faculty** 2 times. These faculty were in the departments of biology and computer science.
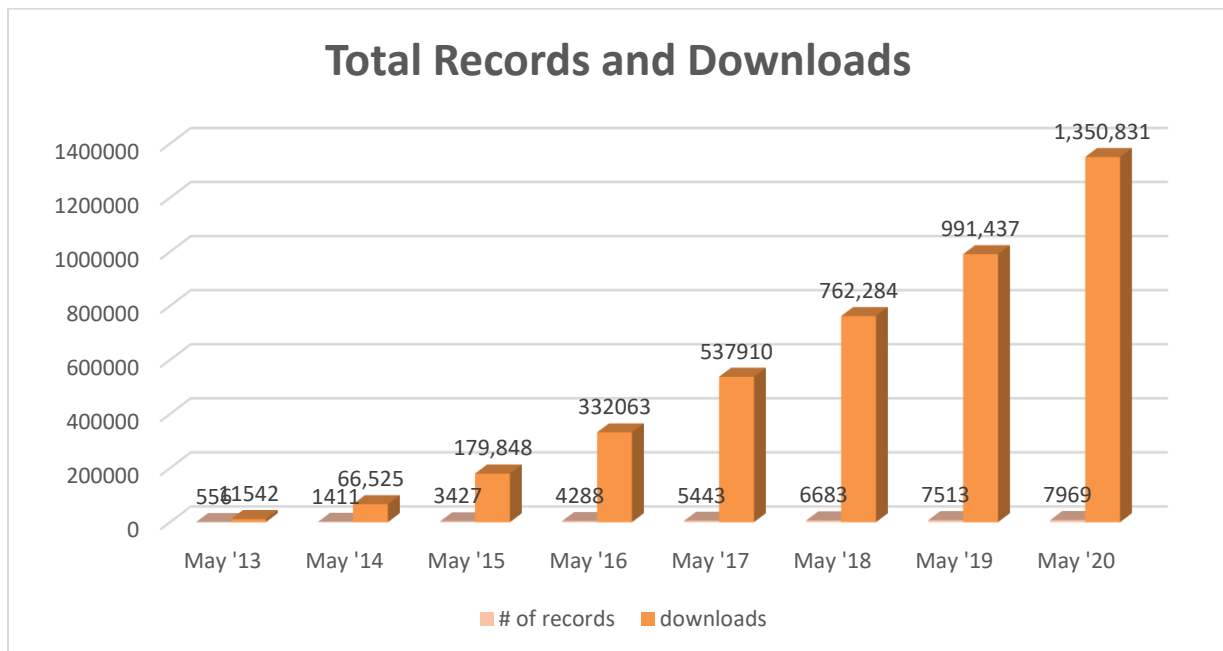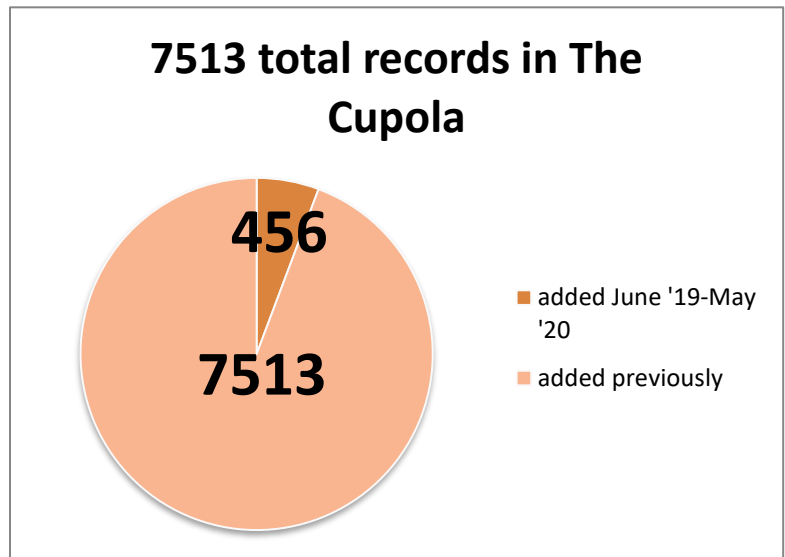
**Lieber Essay Contest.** In Spring 2020, Professor Stephen Stern from Judaic Studies within the IDS department contacted the department about publishing essays from their new essay contest for high school students called the Georges Lieber Essay Contest on Resistance. We created a [new submission form](#) for these student authors and added a [new series to The Cupola](#).
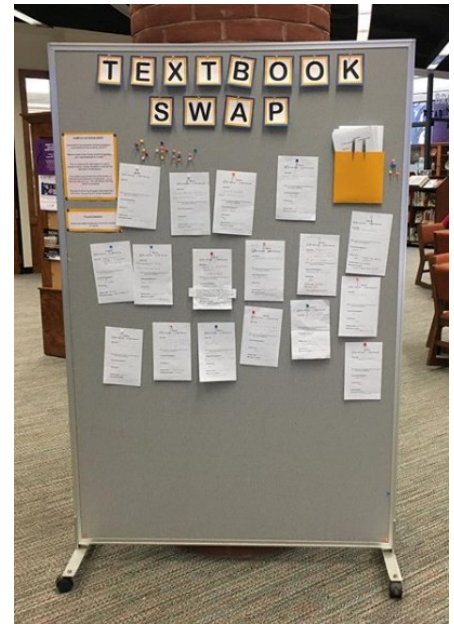
# The Cupola – Gettysburg's open access institutional repository

We added over 450 records[1] this year.

- Our items have been downloaded over 1,350,831 times total[2] (350,000 + times this year), and our average download/item has risen to 132 (up from 114 last year).
- Most of our traffic (51%) was from within the U.S. We also had visitors from 213 other countries.

**7513 total records in The Cupola**

**456**

**7513**

- added June '19-May '20
- added previously

**Total Records and Downloads**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| May '13 | 556 | 61542 |
| May '14 | 1411 | 66,525 |
| May '15 | 3427 | 179,848 |
| May '16 | 4288 | 332063 |
| May '17 | 5443 | 537910 |
| May '18 | 6683 | 762,284 |
| May '19 | 7513 | 991,437 |
| May '20 | 7969 | 1,350,831 |

■ # of records ■ downloads

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[1] We use "record" or "item" to refer to a work that is described with metadata in The Cupola. We use "file" to indicate that there is full content associated with the record/item. Records may have 0, 1, or more files associated with them.

[2] Dashboard statistics are a bit lower than live readership map statistics because they exclude downloads from withdrawn items. We typically use dashboard statistics in this report.

## Most Downloaded Items by Category



Chart: "Most Downloaded Items by Category" — stacked bar chart with categories: Student Work, Faculty Scholarship, Library Pub(lications), Other Publications. Y-axis from 0 to 120000.

Labels and values:
- **Student Work**: What Makes a Monster and What Makes a Man? (41634); The Economic Decline of Zimbabwe (26889); How Bebop Came to Be (212...)
- **Faculty Scholarship**: Intro To MIPS (67425); Digital Circuit Projects (28898); The Physiological Consequences of Bed Rest
- **Library Pub**: What Words?; You've Gotta Read This 2013 (1273...); Making Your Mobile Device an Art Expert (400...; 348...)
- **Other Publications**: Heirs of Roman Empire (8820); Eyewitness Account Gburg Battle (4085); Adams Co Vets (3838)

Legend: Series1, Series2, Series3

Work that is exclusively available in The Cupola receives the most downloads:

- Student works consistently get more downloads than anything else in our repository. This scholarly work is not available anywhere else.
- The two most-downloaded faculty works are Open Educational Resources, both authored by Dr. Charles Kann in the Computer Science department. References in Wikipedia articles likely help drive traffic to the work.
- The #1 and #2 items in "Library Publications" are not available anywhere else online.
- The "Other Publications" section includes a section of the *Contemporary Civilizations* textbook published by Gettysburg College in 1958 – the book includes primary sources as well as introductory text written by Gettysburg College professors. The other two articles were published in the 2004 and 1995 issues of *Adams County History*, the journal of the Adams County Historical Society.

## Journals in The Cupola

Currently we host five student journals in The Cupola. All journals are peer-reviewed and edited by undergraduates at Gettysburg College. In March 2020, the department was contacted by Logan Grubb '21 and Daniel Janzow '21 to begin to process of creating a new open access journal related to public policy. The student editors hope that the *Gettysburg Journal for Public Policy* will be ready to accept submissions by late Fall 2020.

We also host *Adams County History*, the annual publication of the Adams County Historical Society.

The most downloaded article from the June 2019-May 2020 year is listed for each title (not all-time downloads).

**The Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era.** "Rewriting History: A Study of How the History of the Civil War Has Changed in Textbooks from 1876 to 2014" by Skyler A. Campbell was the most popular article (1,409 downloads this year).

**The Gettysburg Historical Journal.** "The Ottoman Gunpowder Empire and the Composite Bow" by Nathan Lanon '12 was the most popular article (4,230 downloads this year).

**The Mercury.** "Poseidon" by Rachel E. Barber '14, was the most popular item (83 downloads this year).

**Gettysburg Social Sciences Review.** "What Is "Safe Sex"? Understanding the Need for Sex Education Reform" by Julianne Baker was the most popular article (163 downloads this year).

**The Gettysburg Economic Review.** "The Economic Decline of Zimbabwe" by Chidochashe Munangagwa '11 was the most popular item (6,666 downloads this year).

**Adams County History.** "Catherine Mary White Foster's Eyewitness Account of the Battle of Gettysburg, with Background on the Foster Family Union Soldiers" by David Murdoch was the most popular article (1,257 downloads this year).

# Executive Conclusion / Future Direction

- The COVID-19 pandemic has frozen vacant personnel positions around campus. Our department will be directly affected when Scholarly Communications Assistant Sarah Appedu departs in August 2020 to pursue graduate studies; we are also impacted by the absence of a Holley Intern in 2020-21. As a result of reduced staffing, as well as general uncertainty about the future, our department is likely to scale back its activities in the coming year.

- While we remain committed to data-driven decision making, we are revising a major assessment goal we set last year. That goal was: "We want to consolidate and improve how we track the results of direct and indirect actions to faculty, which includes OER adoption. Ideally, we should be able to report which faculty and courses use OER, and how many students are impacted. Currently, no one on campus is tracking this." We still feel that someone on campus should track OER adoptions, but the Library is not the best unit to do so. An academic office that oversees faculty should attempt to gather this data, in collaboration with the College Bookstore and the Library. The process is too difficult, time consuming, and inaccurate for us to continue to attempt keeping such a list.

- We are committed to faculty outreach and education about textbook affordability. We will also support faculty who are exploring OER adoption and who want to edit or even create OER. As a participant in the Open Textbook Network's Certificate of OER Librarianship program, Mary is currently developing a long-term Action Plan for OER services. This plan, which will include sections on goals, timeline, resource management, outreach, and assessment, may be used to serve as a basis for OER program development over the next few years.

- We intend to expand our knowledge of open pedagogy and will work to cultivate a community around this innovative, student-centered pedagogy. We will continue to build our relationship with the Johnson Center for Teaching & Learning, as well as with all teaching librarians.

# Appendix 1 – The Cupola Statistical Summary

| Quarter | records | files | MDOR (metadata-only records) | percent MDOR | percent uploaded content | total downloads |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June-13 | 556 | 384 | 182 | 33% | 67% | 11,542 |
| June-14 | 1411 | 1122 | 320 | 23% | 77% | 66,525 |
| September-14 | 2003 | 1358 | 662 | 33% | 67% | |
| December-14 | 2642 | 1710 | 983 | 37% | 63% | 119,061 |
| March-15 | 2845 | 1931 | 945 | 33% | 67% | |
| June-15 | 3427 | 2497 | 996 | 29% | 71% | 179,848 |
| September-15 | 3130 | 2690 | 476 | 15% | 85% | 202,231 |
| December-15 | 3267 | 2796 | 507 | 16% | 84% | 240,271 |
| March-16 | 3560 | 3039 | 558 | 16% | 84% | 280,766 |
| June-16 | 4288 | 3567 | 720 | 17% | 83% | 332,063 |
| September-16 | 4822 | 4052 | 627 | 13% | 87% | 370,893 |
| Se | 5304 | 4652 | 650 | 12% | 88% | 424,802 |
| March-17 | 5252 | 4785 | 465 | 9% | 91% | 478,411 |
| June-17 | 5443 | 4971 | 472 | 9% | 91% | 537,910 |
| September-17 | 5997 | 5516 | 481 | 8% | 92% | 580,095 |
| December-17 | 6227 | 5718 | 509 | 8% | 92% | 641,003 |
| March-18 | 6409 | 5889 | 520 | 8% | 92% | 694,442 |
| June-18 | 6683 | 6144 | 539 | 8% | 92% | 762,284 |
| September-18 | 6791 | 6244 | 547 | 8% | 92% | 789,995 |
| December-18 | 7170 | 6596 | 574 | 8% | 92% | 850,551 |
| March-19 | 7311 | 6726 | 585 | 8% | 92% | 933,057 |
| June-19 | 7513 | 6924 | 589 | 8% | 92% | 991,437 |
| September-19 | 7565 | 6990 | 575 | 7% | 93% | 1,034,312 |
| December-19 | 7657 | 7066 | 591 | 8% | 92% | 1,128,802 |
| March-20 | 7764 | 7157 | 607 | 8% | 92% | 1,234,243 |
| June-20 | 7969 | 7346 | 623 | 8% | 92% | 1,350,831 |

Note: Dashboard statistics are a bit lower than live readership map statistics because they exclude downloads from withdrawn items. We typically use dashboard statistics in this report.