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Open Educational Resources Activity

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Open Educational Resources Activity

Abstract

This activity is designed to help undergraduate library interns learn about the range of Open Educational Resources (OER) that are available to support college courses. It also helps them find and develop an advocate's voice.

Keywords

oer, open educational resources, advocacy, student advocacy

Disciplines

Scholarly Communication

Comments

Activity was initially designed for the Spring 2022 cohort of Holley Interns at Musselman Library, Gettysburg College

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Open Educational Resources Activity

Holley Internship – Spring 2022

> *This activity is designed to help you learn about the range of Open Educational Resources (OER) that are available to support college courses. It will also help you find and develop an advocate's voice. Advocating for people and resources is a key skill for librarians!*

1 First, list all books and course materials that are required for your classes this semester, as well as their costs. Consult your syllabi and the bookstore website as needed. For cost, use the "buy new" list price, while realizing that students use a number of strategies in order to spend less.

Course	Required books/course materials, and cost	Total cost for the class
Total cost for ALL required books this semester:		**$**

2 Next, look for zero-cost alternative books that cover the same or similar content as your assigned texts. At minimum, use these three tools to find alternatives (you may look more broadly if you wish):

1. Open Textbook Library - https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/
2. OER Commons - https://www.oercommons.org/
3. MUSCAT Plus (look for library-licensed content here, like ebooks with multi-user licenses)

Assigned course text (title + full citation if you're feeling extra)	Alternative, zero-cost title	Notes about where you found it, what it costs, any questions or concerns

3 To complete this activity, write a letter to your professor advocating for them to adopt an alternative, zero-cost title in place of a commercial textbook. Be sure to incorporate information you've learned in your independent reading in addition to suggesting a specific title change. Share your letter with the group in Teams. It is *optional* to send the letter to the professor… but remember, if you don't ask, you don't get!