SCoer! in the library

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Background
Open Educational Resources

- Freely available
- Licensed for re-use and repurposing by others
University of South Carolina

- No OER or scholarly communication program
- Few users and little interest in OER across campus
- Textbook initiative at the library
  - E-Reserves, Reserves
  - Textbook Turnstile
- Invited to SECU initiative in 2015
SECU: Developing Partnerships to Advance Open Access Initiatives

Goal: The development of an institutional OA or OER initiative by each SEC University team that reflects their institutional context and interests.

- Gained deeper knowledge of OER
- Strategized and collaborated with campus partners
- Created strategic allies within SEC network
- Formulated basic plan
Getting started
Back home: set goals

- What do we want to achieve?
  - Short term
    - Pass Student Government Resolution
    - Increase awareness
    - Small scale adoption
  - Long term
    - University-wide awareness
    - Large scale adoption
    - Possible full programs available using OER
    - Creation and modification of OER
Proposal for program pilot

- Factors to address:
  - What can reasonably be accomplished?
  - Funding needs
  - Program oversight and accountability
  - Time management
  - Duration of program
  - Adjustments

- Addressed Associate Dean with an overview of program, outlining program overview and possible concerns
Implementation
People

- **Systems**
  - Build webpage and application form

- **Communications Department and library liaisons**
  - Advertise through multiple sources: Day Times, library homepage, campus newspaper, liaison emails

- **Assistant ILL Librarian**
  - Time and interest

- **Head of Circulation**
  - Deep knowledge

- **Human Resources**
  - Arrange payments

- **Assessment Librarian**
  - Help develop and distribute surveys

Image: http://www.sc.edu/visit/campus_photo_gallery/
The plan

- Open applications and advertise
- Select winners and send notifications in coordination with Student Government
- Offer three workshop dates
- Help faculty select OER
- Assist with review placement
- Arrange payment and certificates
- Send assessment surveys
When should the program begin?
How long should the program run?
What are reasonable follow up periods?
Implementation

- Program progressed basically according to plan
- Found that winners were very enthusiastic
- Adjusted workshops as we progressed
- Some difficulty finding resources in certain fields
- Major change: had to change review location
- Learned to be an aggressive communicator
- Encountered partner funding issues
Assessment

- Only 40% of winners were familiar with OER before beginning the program
- 80% found the workshop informative
- 50% of winners were able to easily locate a resource in their field
- 100% of winners reported that they would use or consider using OER in future courses
- 100% recommended OER to colleagues

This is a great project! More faculty should consider using open resources.
Rethinking the program
SCoer! 2016

- Budget $2000 for four $500 grants

- Require winners to:
  - Attend a workshop on OER
  - Submit a syllabus showing usage of an OER or library-licensed resource in place of a traditional textbook
  - Complete two follow up surveys within the year

- Promotion

- Select winners with SG based on:
  - Enthusiasm and knowledge
  - Potential cost-saving impact
  - Availability of OER in discipline

- Implementation

  - Workshop
  - Work closely with faculty to select courses and resources based on previous syllabi
SCoer! 2016 assessment

- 75% of winners were familiar with OER before beginning project
- 50% applied because of existing interest in OER, 25% applied to save students money, and 25% applied to learn about new or different teaching methods
- 100% found the workshop informative or highly informative
- 100% were very satisfied with the level of support offered by librarians
- 50% spent between 11 and 20 hours on this project, 25% spent more than 31 hours, and 25% spent less than 10, but had already started curating resources in advance of this project
- 100% will attempt to use OER in future courses
- 100% have recommended OER to colleagues
A few neat things leading up to SCoer! 2017

- Increased word of mouth
- Open Access and Open Education Weeks
  - Displays
  - Panel on Open Education
  - OER Information Table and Interaction with Students
- Interest from administration
- Invited to speak at:
  - Faculty senate
  - Center for Teaching Excellence groups
  - Council of Academic Deans
- Email blast from liaisons to Academic Deans, widely forwarded to faculty
Increased applications
Could pick winners more selectively
Implemented similarly to 2016, but offered increased individual consultations and assistance
Variance of winner interactions
Significantly increased cost-savings
SCoer! 2017 Assessment

- 75% of winners were familiar with OER before applying for the award
- 75% applied to save students money
- 100% found the workshop or consultation informative or highly informative
- When asked to elaborate on the most helpful parts of the workshop, winners responded:
  - 100% were very satisfied with support offered by librarians
  - 100% will attempt to use an OER in future courses and have recommended OER to colleagues

Exposure to sites to visit and what areas/disciplines they supported. Also the facilitators were clear about asking them for help and guidance.

I greatly benefited from the relevant insights and guidance provided by Amie Freeman. I learned so much from Amie about available teaching resources, and how to integrate these OER resources into my current course. Her assistance was invaluable!

Information about where to find texts

Walking through the different options available, as well as learning the different levels of copyright usage.

Great experience, I learned a lot!

I would be interested in being a "textbook hero" at a later time! Really enjoyed this opportunity to focus on resources as a means to invigorate my course design (in addition to saving money for students!) Thanks for having me as a participant!

I'm excited to see how this semester goes!

Thanks so much for this initiative and for the support you all provide!
Moving towards SCoer! 2018

- Increased Student Government interest
  - Professors for Student Affordability
  - South Carolina Student Body Presidents' Summit

- Invited to speak at:
  - Provost's Retreat
  - Oktoberbest
Failures (or learning opportunities!)

- Difficulty locating resources
- Commitment
- Scheduling
- Communication
- Time management
Successes

- Positive responses from faculty
  - Willing to serve as advocates and "textbook heroes"
  - Spread the word to colleagues

- Major cost-savings
  - $78,500 in first-time savings
  - Combined $150,000 in total savings from SCoer! winners
  - Over $255,000 in campus savings

- Expressed support from administration
Future steps
Starting your own initiative
**Institutional teams Activity: Logic Model**

**Goal:**

(State specific institutional goal here)

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<tr>
<th>Key Baseline Needs (Where are we starting?)</th>
<th>Key Activities of Program (What activities will we do to meet these needs, close gaps, and achieve goals?)</th>
<th>Key Outcomes (What changes will result?)</th>
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Activity CC BY-NC-SA "The SEC Academic Collaboration Workshop 2015 Guidebook" by the Texas A&M University Libraries.
Tips

- Set reasonable goals and expectations
- Collect your resources
- Find your partners
- Constant outreach
- Regularly review your program
- Don’t become discouraged
Want to partner? Let’s make it happen.
Questions?

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