Affordable Learning Kentucky: Strategies for Affordability and Success

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Affordable Learning Kentucky

Strategies for Affordability and Success

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Crissy Ross, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Northern Ky. University
Kelly Smith, Director of Collections & Discovery, Eastern Ky. Univ. Libraries
Lori Werth, PhD, Provost, University of Pikeville
Introduce affordable learning workgroup tasking for 2021. Why and what we did.

- OER
- Digital Platforms
- Reduce costs for all KY students, initially undergraduate students, eventually k-post grad
- DOE grant, diverse/missing voices in OER
- Morphed into statewide task force
- Statewide initiative to lower education costs, share scholarship/expertise
Case Study: NKU

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Textbook Affordability Program:
Identification and Integration of Electronic Textbooks into Library Catalog
We are excited to announce Steely Library in collaboration with other NKU campus stakeholders, including the University Connect and Persist (UCAP) program, implemented a campus-wide pilot textbook program beginning fall semester 2020. Fifteen digital textbooks were purchased and integrated into Steely’s library catalog.

Priority was given to textbooks that could be:
- Accessed electronically (in light of pandemic and remote learning)
- Multi or unlimited users, when possible
- Added to the library collection (had a university sharing license)
- Most requested titles through UCAP and the university bookstore
- Reached the most students according to real time enrollment counts
- Provided significant financial relief for our students
- Supported a diverse spectrum of students across all of NKU’s departments
Purchasing Digital Textbooks: Final Counts

Books Purchased: 30
Students Reached: 6,215
Money Saved: $347,824.50
Library Spent: under $10,000

● These numbers are a snapshot from 2 semesters only
  ○ Even more impactful because these texts are used for multiple semesters

Obstacles:

● Lack of communication between campus systems
  ○ Lots of manual labor
  ○ Timing of decisions

● Competing interests between library and campus bookstore

● Digital licensing
  ○ Searched 500 titles to identify 30 for purchase (6%)
Case Study: EKU

Librarian Promoting Access to Free Textbooks

Published on August 06, 2020

Eastern Kentucky University Librarian Kelly Smith is involved with an essential program known as Open Educational Resources (OER). Smith is the Coordinator of Collections and Discovery of OER where she, along with many others, assist students who may not have the resources available to obtain textbooks.

“In the library, over the past several years, we have seen an increase in students requesting that we purchase or borrow textbooks for them;” said Smith “We started an initiative to keep a limited number of course textbooks on reserve to meet some of these needs, especially during the first weeks of school when some students are still waiting for textbook vouchers to come in or their books are on backorder. However, this is not a comprehensive solution – it is just a bandaid on the problem, which is that textbooks are too expensive and are a barrier to student success.”

Studies have shown that approximately 67 percent of students simply don’t purchase their textbooks if they are more than they can afford.

https://stories.eku.edu/events/eku-libraries-launches-first-open-access-textbook-african-american-studies
EKTU Faculty Receive Funding to Develop Zero Textbook Cost Courses

The EKTU Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Open Textbook Resources is awarding $23,000 in grant funding to three departments and four individual faculty who submitted proposals to develop zero textbook cost courses. This incentive grant program was made possible by an EKTU Board of Regents Innovation Grant and will be implemented with ongoing technical and staff support provided by EKTU Libraries.

https://stories.eku.edu/programs/eku-faculty-receive-funding-develop-zero-textbook-cost-courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>English 101 - Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dept/Prog:</td>
<td>English Department / First Year Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College:</td>
<td>College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty:</td>
<td>Dr. Jill Parrott* and Dr. Dominic Ashby*</td>
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</table>

**Departmental Award**

$5,000

**How will Funds be Used?**

*Hire student employees*

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S21</td>
<td>Gather faculty participants and adapt outside content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F21</td>
<td>Review new material and integrate together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S22</td>
<td>Pilot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F22</td>
<td>Full use across program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Former Textbooks**

- Language Awareness
- Bedford/St. Martin’s

**Projected Annual Enrollment**

2,000+

**Projected Total Annual Savings for Students / EKU**

$160,000

$80

*Faculty member participated in PLC*
Professional Learning Community

September 14 - Introduction
Pre-work - Readings - (About 1 hour)


Introductions
1. Prompt question for self introductions: What is your course and why have this change?

Discuss Readings
1. The David Wiley video describes the big “Why” of OERs. What are your “Openness” versus the traditional system of Copyright and Intellectual Property?
2. Consider the free materials you currently use in your classes. Do these fit the definition of OER? Why or why not?
3. How might teaching with OERs benefit your students? (in addition to cost savings)
4. How might it benefit you?
5. John Stewart: “What is it that you really want students to get out of your course?”

Introduce homework for next session

October 5 - Finding and Evaluating OER
Pre-work - About 45 minutes

1. Readings from The OER Starter Kit.
   a. Considerations for Using or Creating OERs - https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/oer/
   c. OER in Print - https://iastate.pressbooks.pub/oerstarterkit/chapter/oer-in-print/
2. Activity: Identify 1 or 2 potential OER for adoption or adaptation using the Checklist and/or the OER Discovery Worksheet
Undergraduate Students to Get Free Textbooks with EKU BookSmart

Published on December 14, 2020

THE BIG E BOX

All the textbooks you’ll need delivered right to your door.

Free for EKU undergrad students!

LEARN MORE advantage.eku.edu

https://advantage.eku.edu/books
Case Study: University of Pikeville

- First exploratory meeting: April 6, 2020
- First day of class with free and affordable resources: August 24, 2020
- Changing the course in 140 days
- Support
  - University leadership
  - Academic leaders
  - Library services
  - Professional development
  - Time and/or resources
Case Study: University of Pikeville

- Campus announcement
- Assisting faculty - what options were available?
  - Tech & Instructional Design Support
  - Mentorship from “Learning Designers”
- Summer 2020 + 6 wk stipend for all faculty
How do free materials impact student performance?

What about you?
Go to menti.com and enter the code 3389 648
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library provides e-textbooks when possible</th>
<th>OER programming</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OER resources when possible, course charges,</td>
<td>A lot of effort to find students enough scholarships to cover costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentive grants</td>
<td>Digital textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus has talked about moving to OER but hasn’t started anything official</td>
<td>Library textbook support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have had discussion and some PD on OER, but nothing concrete in that area yet. Individual faculty are using OER resources.</td>
<td>More e-resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook library</td>
<td>We have a task force and have received grants to offer incentives to adopt OERs or library-licensed texts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Looking at inclusive access through major publishers like McGraw Hill, but not a lot of institutional support for OER, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Should be doing more!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Engaging with campus partners to explore a statewide affordable learning initiative.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Individual faculty have pursued OER, but there has not been an institutional push Free-tuition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Video tutorials for OER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Attending PD</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your campus doing to support affordable learning?</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database and ebook training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring OERS. Have just started adding a couple to the IR.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open education push campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>OER-evangelism from librarians!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talking with faculty and administrators about beginning and OER initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>OER libguides for step-by-step explanations</td>
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<tr>
<td>New campus collaborations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>time</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>We have grants for OER use and reviews of OER materials, we purchased ebook options for some textbooks, and we note the availability of a library ebook on the textbook website that students look at to see what is required for their course.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our library has offered OER-support workshops and incentive grants, but it didn’t take with faculty when we last tried in Fall 2019.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>advertising OERs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding/lack thereof</td>
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What obstacles do you see in adopting affordable learning options at your institution?
Survey Results (first 30)

1. What types of affordable learning initiatives is your institution currently investing in?
Group Discussion:
The Future of Affordable Learning in KY
The charge (DRAFT) of the Affordable Learning Steering Committee is to facilitate efforts to expand availability and use of low- and / or no-cost high-quality educational resources for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with an initial focus on undergraduate higher education.

The steering committee coordinates the work of subgroups focusing on specific aspects of the overall project and makes recommendations to the Council on Postsecondary Education by way of the KYVL Leadership Team.

A member of the steering committee serves as a liaison to each subgroup.
Steering Committee Composition

- KYVL institutions currently engaged or actively exploring affordable learning
- KYVL executive director, LT liaison
- One or two actively engaged individuals, e.g.:
  - Librarians
  - Instructional designers
  - Faculty champions
Affordable Learning Teams

- Advocacy and communication
- Assessment and data
- Copyright and licensing
- Education and training
- Free and reduced-cost textbooks
- Grants and funding
- Platforms, hosting and technology
- Publishing support
- Rewards and recognition
Affordable Learning Teams

I would be interested in participating in the following affordable learning team(s):

- Advocacy and communication: 3
- Assessment and data: 6
- Platforms, hosting and technology: 9
- Publishing support: 3
- Education and training: 4
- Rewards and recognition: 5
- Grants and funding: 5
- Copyright and licensing: 7
- Free and reduced-cost textbooks: 1
- Other: 2
Steering Committee Tasking (DRAFT)

- Develop charge and tasking for, identify members of, appoint liaisons for, and convene initial subgroups.
- Launch other subgroups as needed.
- Develop recommendations for strategic planning and sustainability.
How Can YOU Get Involved?
Affordable Learning Initiatives Survey

kyvl.libwizard.com/affordable

Deadline: April 30

- What is your institution already doing?
- What is your most significant initiative?
- Funding
- Data
- Staffing / other drivers
- Obstacles
Questions / Contact

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kyvl.org/committees/affordable