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The Benefits of Open Educational Resources (OERs) for Faculty and Students

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The Benefits of Open Educational Resources (OERs) for Faculty and Students

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Overview

- The High Cost of Education: Problem
- How Students Acquire Textbooks & An Alternative Solution to reduce costs (OERs)
- OER Benefits for Students
- OER Benefits for Faculty
- Finding and Adopting OERs (textbook review time)
- Differences in Databases
The Direct Cost of an Education at Marshall

- 42% of all undergraduate students at Marshall University receive the Federal Pell Grant
- 58% of all undergraduate students receive federal student loans averaging ~$8,000 per year

Marshall University 2019-2020 Tuition and Fees (assuming FT-status fall & spring semester)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WV Residents</td>
<td>$8,400</td>
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<td>Non-Residents of WV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
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<td>$15,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(National Center for Education Statistics, 2018)
The “Hidden” Costs of Education

During the 2017-2018 academic year, students spent:

- $1,276 on books and supplies (NCES, 2018)
- $484 (n=~34,000) for required course materials (National Association of College Stores, 2018)
How Students Acquire Materials

- Purchasing older editions
- Borrowing materials from others
- Getting an illegal copy
- Using the library’s Textbook Loan Program
- Not purchasing the book at all

(Senack, 2014; Ferguson, 2016; Florida Virtual Campus, 2016; Thompson, Cross, Rigling, & Vickery, 2017; Clinton, 2018)
Open Educational Resources Defined

• Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OERs can include things like full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge. - William & Flora Hewlett Foundation
Open Educational Resources

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Open Educational Resources

The 5Rs

- **Retain**: Make and own a copy
- **Reuse**: Use in a wide range of ways
- **Revise**: Adapt, modify, and improve
- **Remix**: Combine two or more
- **Redistribute**: Share with others

"5 Rs image" by David Wiley
OER Benefits for Faculty

- Provides more freedom to select different *types* of materials to suit your course such as using different chapters from various OER textbooks
- Inclusion of more interactive practice problems
- Availability of searchable content
- Texts are continuously edited so they're current

(Crozier, 2018; Salem, 2017)
OER Benefits for Students

- Reduces overall costs associated with a course
- Immediate access to the course materials
- Material presented in multiple ways
- Easy to use and the ability to take items anywhere

(Cannon & Brickman, 2015; Hatzipanagos & Gregson, 2015)
OERs and Learning Outcomes

Hilton & Laman (2012) performed a case study at Houston CC with three psychology courses where two used a traditional textbook and one employed an OER. Students in the OER section performed statistically better on exams, had higher retention, and had overall higher final grades.

Clinton (2018) compared LOs of students living in the United States (N=520) in courses using commercial texts or OERs. Students performed slightly better in the OER section and GPA was also slightly higher.

Choi & Carpenter's (2017) compared student performance in a Human Factors and Ergonomics course over the span of five semesters. Results indicated no significant difference between texts, meaning students did no better or worse as a result of implementing an OER for a course.
Information from the Open Textbook Network Summit & Institute, 2019
OER
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OER Library Research Guide

https://libguides.marshall.edu/OpenEducationalResources
OER Database Types

- Free vs. Low Cost
- Video vs Text vs All Formats
- Publishers vs Aggregators vs Referatories
- Learning Objects vs Complete Courses
- Very Small to Very Large
- Easy to Use vs Difficult to Use
- Associations vs Universities vs Consortia
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References (Cont’d)


