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## Library-Led Open Education Resources Initiatives: Strategies for Engaging Faculty

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# Library-Led Open Education Initiatives: Strategies for Engaging Faculty

Sarah Beaubien  
Grand Valley State University  
MLA Academic, May 2013

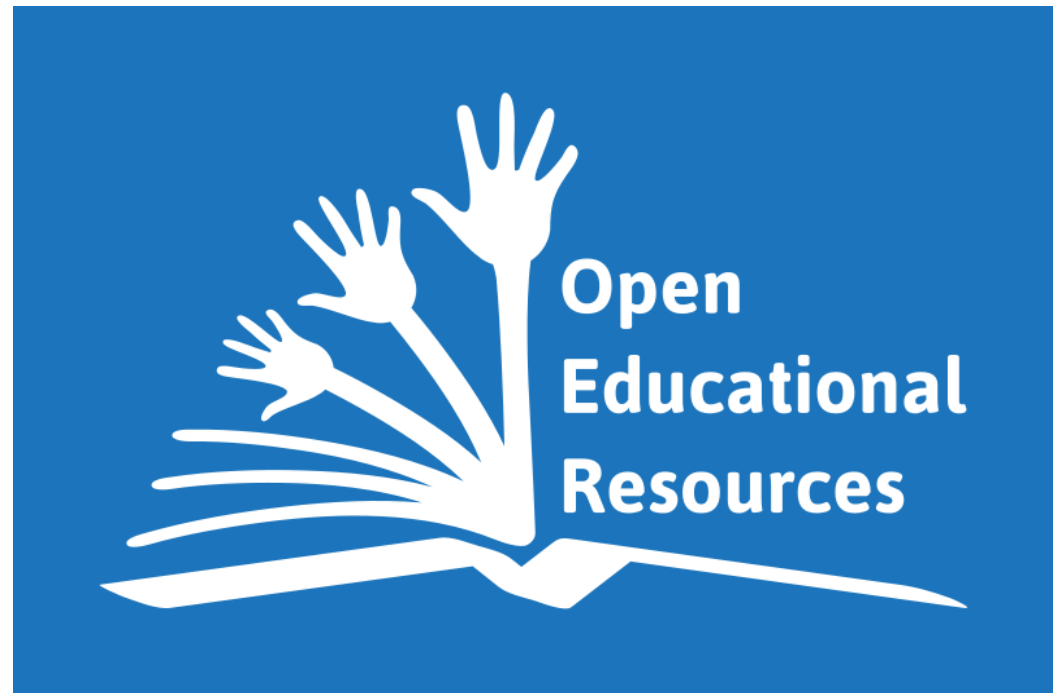


# Defining OER

- “Free-to-Use Teaching and Learning Content from Around the World”
  - [oercommons.org](http://oercommons.org)
- “...high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge.”
  - [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#)

# For example:

- Textbooks
- Courses, Course modules
- Learning objects
- Media objects
- Tests
- Software



# The OER Landscape

- Faculty, students, parents, administrators are painfully aware of the high cost of textbooks
- Growing number of faculty are using or creating OER
- Many OER collections & repositories
  - See UMass Amherst guide on Open Educational Resources  
<http://guides.library.umass.edu/oer>

# Benefits

- Potentially significant cost savings for students
  - Bonus points: this is popular with parents, administrators, etc.
- Global, ethical benefits of shared educational content
- Pairs naturally with information literacy

# Benefits

- Pedagogical implications:
  - Increased control of course content
  - Opportunity to rethink/redesign course
  - More engaging for students
  - Potentially more collaborative

# Barriers

- Time consuming to find high quality OER
- Time consuming to create OER
- May lack prepared tests/quizzes that commercial textbooks offer



# Why Librarians Should Lead the Way

- We know things. We do things. Like:
  - Provide leadership and education in the open access movement
  - Support the curriculum with resources & services
  - Build relationships with all/most departments
  - Assist students and faculty with finding and evaluating content

# Why Librarians Should Lead the Way

- We know things. We do things. Like:
  - Develop assignments, courses, and information literacy tools
  - Work with copyright and Creative Commons licensing
  - Offer infrastructure via institutional repositories
  - Offer publishing services

# What We're Doing

- Publishing OER authored by GVSU faculty
- Presenting, participating in conversation
- Facilitating campus-wide discussion
- Engaging in outreach
- Learning as we go

# Hosted OER

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### Author Information

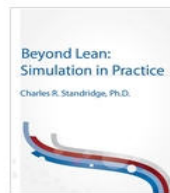
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### Beyond Lean: Simulation in Practice

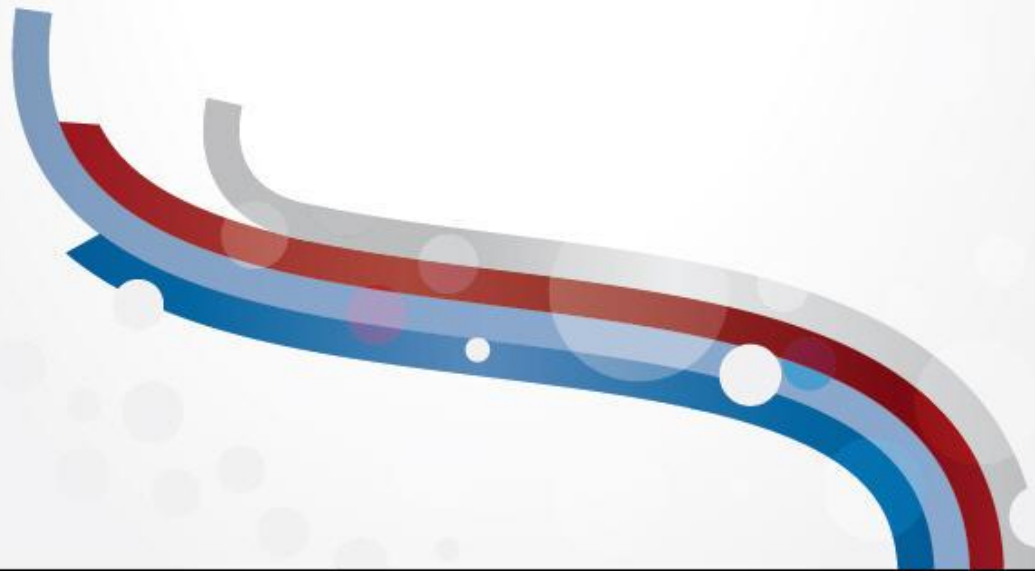
*Charles R. Standridge Ph.D.*

Lean thinking, as well as associated processes and tools, have involved into a ubiquitous perspective for improving systems particularly in the manufacturing arena. With application experience has come an understanding of the boundaries of lean capabilities and the benefits of getting beyond these boundaries to further improve performance. Discrete event simulation is recognized as one beyond-the-boundaries of lean technique. Thus, the fundamental goal of this text is to show how discrete event simulation can be used in addition to lean thinking to achieve greater benefits in system improvement than with lean alone. Realizing this goal requires learning the problems that simulation solves as well as the methods required to solve them. The problems that simulation solves are captured in a collection of case studies. These studies serve as metaphors for industrial problems that are commonly addressed using lean and simulation.

# Beyond Lean: Simulation in Practice

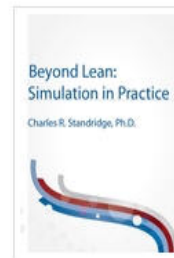
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Charles R. Standridge, Ph. D.



# Engineering Text

- Specialized subject matter
- Entire text open access (except solutions!)
- Supplemental files/ programs
- 259 downloads since January 2012



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## Beyond Lean: Simulation in Practice

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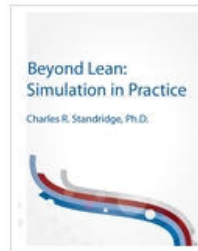
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# Student and Author Comments

“Students prefer electronic copy of text”



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“Helps expand GVSU and program visibility through web searches”

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Appendix Data Sets (1 KB)

“Students can download related course materials from the same site”

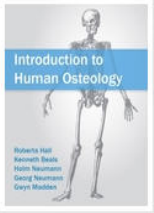


# Introduction to Human Osteology

Roberta Hall  
Kenneth Beals  
Holm Neumann  
Georg Neumann  
Gwyn Madden



# Anthropology Text



**Introduction to Human Osteology**

Roberta Hall  
Kenneth Beals  
Holm Neumann  
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## Introduction to Human Osteology

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Chapter 4: Vertebral Column and Thorax (5112 KB)	<a href="#">Download</a>
Chapter 5: Pelvis and Dentition (1396 KB)	<a href="#">Download</a>

**Description**

This text was designed for use in the human osteology laboratory classroom. Bones are described to aid in identification of skeletonized remains in either an archaeological or forensic anthropology setting. Basic techniques for siding, aging, sexing, and stature estimation are described. Both images of bone and drawings are included which may be used for study purposes outside of the classroom. The text represents work that has been developed over more than 30 years by its various authors and is meant to present students with the basic analytical tools for the study of human osteology.

**Publication Date** 2010

**Keywords** human osteology, aging, sexing, osteological analysis

**Comments**

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# writing spaces

readings on writing  
volume 1

edited by charles lowe and pavel zemliansky

# Writing Texts

- Collaborative & peer-reviewed
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# Publishing Services

- We Provide
  - Outreach
  - Cover design
  - Advising on Creative Commons
  - Advising on print-on-demand
  - Reports on usage
- We Do Not Provide (yet...)
  - Copy editing
  - Formatting
  - Peer-review
  - ISBN

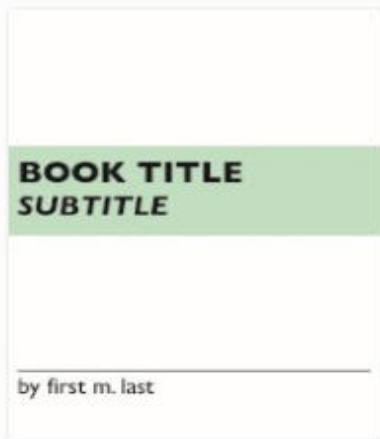
# Cover Design Templates



SW book cover 1



SW book cover 2



SW book cover 3



SW book cover 4

# Cover Design

- Disclaimer: I am not a graphic designer
- Collaborative project with colleague
  - Small investment for Adobe Illustrator
  - Templates that can be adapted by non-expert
  - Could make use of free options
- Value of the service
  - Great for marketing OER
  - Give works a visual identity

# Anecdotal Evaluation

- Faculty
  - Pleased with services
  - Appreciate usage reports, cover design
  - Grateful for venue to share OER
- Students
  - Appreciate free textbooks
  - Find format convenient to use
- We will continue to gather feedback as this program evolves

# Faculty Discussion Group

- Co-facilitated (myself and Writing faculty member)
- Cross disciplinary
- Broad focus
- Each group member develops project with individual outcomes
- Launch Fall 2013



# And Now, A Call to Action

- You can:
  - Reach out to faculty
  - Develop resource guides
  - Host discussion groups or workshops
  - Support dissemination of OER authored by your faculty
  - Partner with offices such as Faculty Teaching & Learning, Instructional Technology, etc. to develop programs

# A Reality Check

- So are you saying that if I start talking about OER, faculty will line up and give away free textbooks?
  - Umm....no. Well, some of them will.
  - Expect challenges. Expect some skepticism. And some enthusiastic participants.

# And a Few Strategies

- Identify existing needs at your institution
- Initiate conversation with open access champions
- Share cost savings data, if possible
- Align conversation about OER with your institution's mission
- Use your librarian powers to expand partnerships and services

# Want More Information?

A great starting point is the LibGuide created by Marilyn Billings at UMass Amherst:

<http://guides.library.umass.edu/oer>

# Questions?

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<http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/>