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Choose Your Own Initiative: Exploring the Landscape of OER and Textbook Affordability Programs

Matt Ruen

Grand Valley State University, ruenm@gvsu.edu

Jacklyn A. Rander

Grand Valley State University, randerja@gvsu.edu

Janelle Yahne

Grand Valley State University, yahnej@gvsu.edu

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CHOOSE YOUR OWN INITIATIVE

EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPE OF OER AND TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY PROGRAMS

Matt Ruen, Jacklyn Rander, & Janelle Yahne, Grand Valley State University



Do you want to learn about our project?

Curious what models we found interesting?

Would you like to share ideas and resources?

Our Context

- Longstanding informal support for OER in library & other academic support offices
- April 2018: Student Senate & Faculty Senate formally charged a task force to recommend campus-wide strategies
- We began assembling background information to kick-start task force efforts

The Background Paper

- Reviewed scholarly literature, trade publications, conference programs, & community resources
- An illustrative, not exhaustive, overview of different OER support programs
- Also: professional development opportunities, relevant organizations, brief commentary on related issues

Results

- "Looks like you did all the work for us!"
- task force faculty member
- Program models adopted in several of the final Task Force recommendations
- Questions for future exploration:
 - how & when is OER creation "scholarly"?
 - How can departments support OER adoption without extra funding?

Read our Background Paper:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/1bN>

Financial Incentives

- **Rewarding departments** for supporting their faculty with OER, at Kansas State University
 - Funded by \$10/course student fee
 - Majority of fee allocated to department
- Funding for **a new OER imprint from the University Press**, at Temple University
 - Library/press partnership covers publishing costs and \$5,000 stipend per project.
- **Collection development awards** for faculty at University of California Los Angeles
 - Grants for adopting OER or alternative materials can cover actual expenses OR build library collections for specific course

Non-monetary Support

- **OER Studio for programming, research, & fellowships**, at SUNY Buffalo
 - Supporting text, multimedia, assessment tools
 - Plans: expand to serve other SUNY institutions
- **Student government awards for OER champions**, at Texas A&M
 - Annual awards, no financial component
 - Student recognition highly valued by faculty as evidence of impact, for tenure/promotion
 - *Adapted by GVSU Student Senate & implemented fall 2019*

Read our Task Force Report:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/1bM>

Research & Readings

- What scholarly and professional resources do you recommend for people new to OER?

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Gaps & Needs

- Where do you see a need for new or different models of OER initiative? What's missing?

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More Models of Support

- What are your favorite approaches for OER/Affordability support? What programs or models inspire you?

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Contribute Online:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/1bO>