

OER Summit Panel
3/4/20

Shannon Ahrndt, James Newman, Judy Schmitt,
Yun Zhang

Moderator: Tracy Stout

My Incentives to Develop OER Materials

- Bring diverse voices and perspectives to students
- Connect topics to current issues/events
- Provide more engaging & “modern” materials to fit a variety of learning styles
- Save students money
- Cover topics that fit my course & connect with my activities/project



How I did it - “adapt”

-Searched for chapters in OER textbooks that laid foundational knowledge & theory

OER Commons, OpenStax, OpenTextbook Library, etc.

Found supplemental articles, videos, podcasts, websites to bring the material to life (copyright for educational use)

TED Talks, NPR podcasts, PBS, newspaper articles, library material links



Challenges

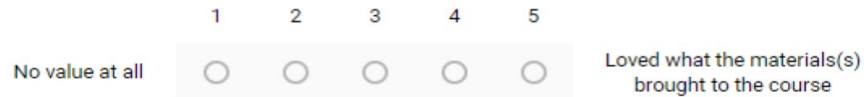
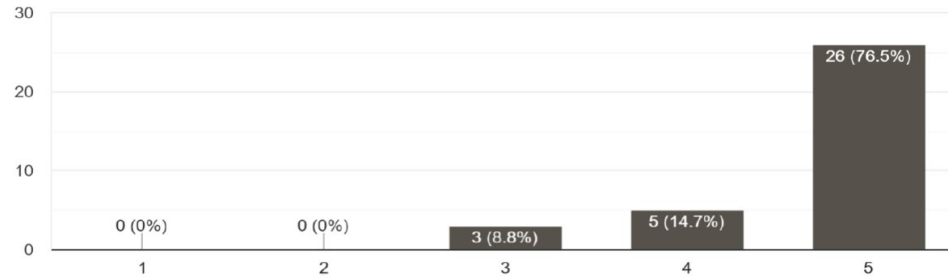
- Pulling from different disciplines (Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Communication, Linguistics)
 - Not all OER texts are of good quality (no sources, poor writing)
 - Unsure about licenses (TedTalks, NPR, PBS, etc.)
 - Finding a similar amount of material for each module
 - Not overwhelming students
 - Making sure materials fit together
-
- Final Product: A mix of open & fair use materials



Student Impact

Were you able to find value in the content of the OER texts for this course?

34 responses



Q: What do you believe could have been better regarding the course resources this semester?

“I experienced very little problems with these materials. My only suggestion would perhaps be to balance the concentration of materials per week a bit more. Some weeks were quite heavy-handed with the OER and it sometimes felt a bit like busy work.

“There were a lot of resources, so maybe condensing the amount.”

“CITING the material...was cumbersome...Since it is open source citing such material might be inherently difficult: although this should be addressed.”

Q: How was your experience of OER texts in this course? What went well?

“The variety of OER was a great benefit to the class. I'm gradually becoming more disinterested with traditional textbooks because of the time it often takes for me to finish. Being the type of student who prefers to deeply study as opposed to skimming, I appreciated the refreshing and diverse materials used in the course.”

“I liked having different sources written by people with different perspectives. I think that having texts with differing voices and opinions added to the course in a positive way.”

“Using OER texts makes reading information for class so much more interesting and keeps things current”

Q: How was your experience of OER texts in this course? What went well?

“I think being able to read real-world applications and watch people who experienced the topics discussed added a layer to the course. It really helped me understand the material. I think having these resources to learn the material made a positive impact on the course.”

“One of THE BEST and most relevant courses and in large part thanks to the material that I've ever been exposed to in my 25 years of going to school.”