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SPEC Survey on Affordable Course Content and Open Educational Resources

1. Introduction

Academic institutions are increasingly developing programmatic approaches to support the creation, adoption, and adaptation of affordable course content (ACC) and open educational resources (OER) as part of wider strategic initiatives to enhance the access to and affordability of higher education and to improve teaching and learning. In addition to teaching and learning units and faculty development centers, academic libraries often play significant or lead roles in ACC/OER programs. Library expertise in copyright and licensing, networks of faculty relationships, and emerging involvement in instructional design and digital publishing present opportunities to create open education and affordability initiatives that will bear a lasting institution-wide contribution to student academic achievement and faculty engagement. These initiatives are also a quantitative way that libraries may demonstrate their value in enhanced learning opportunities and reduced costs for students.

Affordable course content may include materials that are library-licensed or available at a low additional cost to students. Open educational resources are one type of affordable content; OER refers to any type or format of content or software that is in the public domain or licensed with a Creative Commons, GNU public license, or any other intellectual property license that allows free use, modification, and redistribution. Such materials share the idea of adaptability, low or no cost to students, and more control for faculty who use them. Some initiatives are strongly committed to use only OER, while others may combine a wide variety of resources to achieve the goal of providing more affordable course content.

The purpose of this survey is to determine the degree to which ARL member institutions are engaged in ACC/OER advocacy, support, and development. The survey is designed to gather information on ACC/OER initiatives at the institutional level and the role of the library in these initiatives. It examines initiatives' origins, implementation, governance, and funding, incentives for faculty participation, and the types of affordable/open course content that have been developed. It also explores library support of ACC/OER activities with staffing and services. The results of this survey can inform senior library decision-makers who are considering new or additional initiatives to support ACC/OER.

This survey was designed by **Anita Walz**, Open Education, Copyright, and Scholarly Communications Librarian at Virginia Tech University Libraries; **Kristi Jensen**, Program

Development Lead, eLearning Support Initiative at University of Minnesota Libraries; and **Joseph A. Salem, Jr.**, Associate Dean for Learning, Undergraduate Services, and Commonwealth Campus Libraries at Penn State University Libraries.

Please complete this survey and send the requested documentation by **March 28, 2016**. If you are not able to complete the survey in one sitting, you may return to the survey and resume where you left off.

NB: You will need to use the same computer and Web browser each time you access the survey and have cookies enabled.

An * indicates a required response.

As always, individual responses to the survey will be treated confidentially and responses will only be reported in the aggregate.

Questions can be directed to the [SPEC survey staff](#).

* **Select your institution:**

* **Please provide the following contact information:**

Name:

Job title:

E-mail:



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**2.
Background**

Has any part of your institution implemented an initiative that is focused on encouraging faculty to adopt, adapt, or create affordable course content/open educational resources for teaching and learning?

- Yes
- An initiative is in the planning stage
- Not yet, but we plan to investigate the possibility in the near future
- No, and we have no plans for such an initiative at this time

If yes or an initiative is in the planning stage, is the initiative focused on affordable content or openly licensed course content (i.e., OER) or both?

- Affordable course content
- Openly licensed course content
- Both

Comments

If you answered Yes or an initiative is in the planning stage, please complete the survey.

If you answered No or not yet, you will jump to the section Future Library ACC/OER Role.



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3. ACC/OER Initiative Development

Please indicate which entity(ies) originated the ACC/OER initiative and which are involved in implementing it. Check all that apply.

	Originated	Implementing
High-level administration (president, provost, vice provost, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College/academic department/unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty governance body or organization (e.g., faculty senate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student organization(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching and learning group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty development center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructional design group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic computing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University press	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University system-level administration or unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local or regional consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other entity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you indicated that an academic department, consortium, or other entity originated the initiative, please identify the academic department, consortium, and/or other entity.

College/academic department/unit:

Local or regional consortium:

Other entity:

If you indicated that an academic department, consortium, or other entity is involved in implementing the initiative, please identify the academic department, consortium, and/or other entity.

College/academic department/unit:

Local or regional consortium:

Other entity:



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4. ACC/OER Initiative Governance

What is the structure of the governing body that is responsible for guiding and/or executing the ACC/OER initiative?

- Standing committee
- Limited term task force/working group
- Other structure, please briefly describe

How many individuals participate in this governing body?

Please indicate which entities these participants represent and which entity takes the lead in the governing body. Check all that apply.

	Participant represents	Leads governing body
High-level administration (president, provost, vice provost, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College/academic department/unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty governance body or organization (e.g., faculty senate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student organization(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teaching and learning group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty development center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructional design group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic computing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University press	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University system-level administration or unit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local or regional consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other entity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected "other entity," please specify that entity.

What is the role of the governing body? Check all that apply.

- Assess organizational needs
- Provide priorities and guidance for the initiative
- Implement the initiative
- Advocate for policies that encourage/enable ACC adoption
- Advocate for policies that encourage/enable OER adoption, adaptation, and/or creation
- Promote ACC adoption and/or OER adoption, adaptation, and/or creation practices
- Other role, please briefly describe

Please enter any additional comments you may have about the initiative's governing body.



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5. Source of Funding for ACC/OER Initiatives

What are the sources of funding for the initiative? Check all that apply.

- Institution's general operating budget
- Institution's IT budget
- Institution's special project fund
- Academic department budget
- Library's general operating budget
- Library's special project fund
- External grants
- Student fee
- Endowment
- Other funding source, please specify

Comments

What items does the funding cover? Check all that apply.

- Library staff
- Technical support staff
- Faculty incentive or grant funds
- Faculty course release
- Equipment
- Software
- Other item, please specify

Is it expected that this funding will continue or are there other plans to fund/sustain the initiative in the future?

- This funding will continue
- There are other funding plans

If there are other plans to fund/sustain the initiative in the future, please briefly describe them.



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6. Faculty ACC/OER Support/Incentives

Are there any incentives that encourage faculty to adopt, adapt, or create affordable course content/open educational resources?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please indicate the type of incentive. Check all that apply.

- Course release time
 Financial incentives (grants, stipends)
 Instructional design assistance
 Letter of commendation
 Other incentive, please briefly describe

If faculty are provided course release time, is this available university wide or only in select departments?

- University wide
 Select departments

If only in select departments, please identify the departments.

If faculty incentives include grants, what is the average grant amount and how much money has been distributed since the initiative started?

Average grant amount:

Amount of grants distributed to date:

Comments

Please indicate if the incentive program includes any of the following requirements for faculty participants. Check all that apply.

- Openly license original created works (e.g., apply a Creative Commons license)
- Share adapted or newly created works with your institution
- Share adapted or newly created works beyond your institution
- Reduce student textbook costs to zero
- Reduce auxiliary resource costs to students to zero
- Use only openly licensed content
- Assess student learning as a result of the project
- Establish a research component related to the project
- Present to campus members as part of a faculty showcase
- Present the project beyond campus members
- Submit periodic updates regarding their project
- Participate in a faculty learning community
- Report whether they are using the learning material for a certain number of years
- Supply data regarding the size of the course and previous textbook cost
- Other requirement, please specify

Do tenure/promotion policies at your institution encourage faculty to adopt, adapt, or create affordable course content/open educational resources?

- Yes, university wide
- Yes, in select departments
- No

If yes, but only in select departments, please identify the departments.

Does your institution have an intellectual property policy that specifies who owns and who has rights to original works?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate who owns or has rights to the following works.

Curriculum resources:

Research outputs:

Learning software:

Please enter any additional comments you may have about faculty incentives to adopt, adapt, or create affordable course content/open educational resources.



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7. ACC/OER Resources

What types of resources have faculty adopted, adapted, or created as part of the ACC/OER initiative? Check all that apply.

	Adopted ACC	Created ACC	Adopted OER	Adapted OER	Created OER
Videos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Readings or articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open source software or code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Software packages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textbook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library-licensed content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Clicker" software	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online simulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Websites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other resource	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected Other resource/Adopted, please briefly describe the resource.

If you selected Other resource/Adapted, please briefly describe the resource.

If you selected Other resource/Created, please briefly describe the resource.



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**8. ACC/OER
Assessment**

Has there been any assessment of the impact of ACC/OER on teaching and learning?

- Yes
- Not yet, but we plan to
- No and we have no plans to

If yes, what metrics have been used? Check all that apply.

- Number of faculty supplementing course materials with ACC
- Number of faculty replacing course materials with ACC
- Number of faculty creating ACC
- Number of faculty supplementing course materials with OER
- Number of faculty replacing course materials with OER
- Number of faculty adapting OER
- Number of faculty creating OER
- Number of students using ACC
- Number of students using OER
- Number of dollars saved by students
- Increase in student retention
- Reduction in student drops
- Increase in course completion
- Other metric, please briefly describe

If yes, who is conducting these assessments? Check all that apply.

- High-level administration (president, provost, vice provost, etc.)
- Library
- College/academic department/unit
- Faculty governance body or organization (e.g., faculty senate)
- Student organization(s)
- Teaching and learning group
- Faculty development center
- Instructional design group
- Academic computing
- University bookstore
- University press
- University system-level administration or unit
- Local or regional consortium
- Other entity

If you indicated that an academic department, consortium, or other entity is conducting assessments, please identify the academic department, consortium, and/or other entity.

College/academic
department/unit:

Local or regional consortium:

Other entity:

If an assessment has been done, are the results shared publicly?

- Yes
- No

If yes, where?



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**9. Library ACC/OER Support
Activities/Services**

Please indicate the types of ACC/OER support activities/services your library currently provides or plans to provide. Check all that apply.

	Currently provides	Plans to provide
Reserves (print and electronic) software and services that provide access to course content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding for the purchase of additional print and electronic textbooks/course materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Software systems that integrate free and fee-based content (e.g., digital course packs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Software systems that support the publication of openly licensed books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff support for the publication of openly licensed books or other learning objects (e.g., editing, formatting, and other traditional publication services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local repository for openly licensed content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education services on open/affordable content topics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support for identifying (searching/finding) affordable content for a course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New course design support including open/affordable content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructional design support for new and (redesign) existing courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate or work with student advocacy groups on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hosting or other support for student textbook exchange program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copyright and/or open licensing consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other support activity/service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected "Other support activity/service," please briefly describe the activity/service.

If your library provides or plans to provide educational services to faculty, please indicate which topics are covered. Check all that apply.

	Currently provides	Plans to provide
Author's rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copyright contract negotiation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open licensing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open publishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Innovative pedagogy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How/where to deposit open materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other topic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected Other topic/Currently provides, please briefly describe the topic.

If you selected Other topic/Plans to provide, please briefly describe the topic.



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10. Library Staff ACC/OER Participation

What departments within the library contribute staffing to these activities/services? Check all that apply.

- Administration
- Public Service/Reference
- Scholarly Communications
- Library Liaisons
- Teaching & Learning
- Collections & Technical Services
- University Press
- Other department, please specify

How many library staff are involved in supporting these activities/services?

Please enter the position titles of up to five library staff who support affordable /open course content activities/services.

Position Title 1:

Position Title 2:

Position Title 3:

Position Title 4:

Position Title 5:

Please indicate the approximate amount of time each position spends on these activities/services.

	Some time each month	Some time each week	Significant time each week	Some time each day	Significant time each day
Position 1	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Position 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Position 3	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Position 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Position 5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please briefly describe ways that library staff have successfully engaged faculty around affordable course content/open educational resources issues.



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11. Library Staff ACC/OER Skills

Please indicate the knowledge, skills, and abilities your library employees need to have or develop to meet the needs of the initiative. Check all that apply. Then select up to three that are the most important.

	Need	Most Important
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Familiarity with the availability of ACC/OER resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Familiarity with search strategies for ACC/OER resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Familiarity with the learning management system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual property/copyright/open licensing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How to conduct a reference interview	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructional design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media design/creation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media editing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editorial skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
System/technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publishing skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other knowledge, skills, and abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you selected "Other knowledge, skills, and abilities," please briefly describe the knowledge, skill, and/or ability.

What professional development opportunities have library employees found helpful to further their knowledge, skills, and abilities in support of the initiative? Check all that apply.

- In-person training/workshops
- Online discussion groups/professional communication
- Professional conferences
- Virtual training/Webinars
- Other professional development opportunities, please briefly describe



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12. Future Library ACC/OER Role

Please briefly describe what you envision as the role of research libraries in affordable course content services in the future.

Please briefly describe what you envision as the role of research libraries in open educational resources services in the future.



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13. Additional Comments

Please enter any additional information regarding affordable course content/open educational resources activities at your library and institution that may assist the authors in accurately analyzing the results of this survey.



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14. Call for Documents

Please provide the URLs for the following documents/web pages relating to affordable course content/open educational resources activities in your library or institution.

If these documents are not available on the Web or if the URL is for a page that is accessible only by the library staff, mail or email the document(s) by (or soon after) **March 28, 2016** to:

ARL SPEC Surveys
21 Dupont Circle NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

OR

spec@arl.org

NB: Submitted documents may be chosen for inclusion in the published SPEC Kit which will be distributed in both print and electronic formats on a variety of platforms, such as the ARL Digital Publications website, digital repositories, and HathiTrust. Please alert the SPEC survey staff if a submitted document should not be published.

Library open education webpage

Institution open education webpage

ACC/OER LibGuide or similar webpage

ACC/OER resources webpage

Description of events for faculty

Promotional material for events

Description of incentive program

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other agreement for incentive program

Description of library ACC/OER services/support

Examples of resources adopted/adapted/created by faculty

Local repository that includes ACC/OER resources

Planning document that includes specific reference to ACC/OER initiative

ACC/OER project management plan

Tenure/promotion policies that encourage ACC/OER adoption, adaption, or creation

Intellectual property rights policy related to ACC/OER

Examples of assessment of ACC/OER activities

Job descriptions for library positions that support ACC/OER activities/services

Agreement or description of partnership with campus bookstore

Examples of student-engagement programs and strategies

Description or documentation of high-level institutional support

Check here if print documentation will be sent by mail or email.

Will send document(s) by mail.

Will send document(s) by email.



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15. Thank you

Thank you for your contribution to this survey!

Questions about the survey, or a request for a PDF of your survey response, can be directed to the [SPEC survey staff](#).

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