Open Education Week 2018 at Indiana University Bloomington

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On Thursday March 8, the Office of Scholarly Publishing and UITS partnered to hold a day-long Driving Student Success through Affordable Course Material Symposium. The symposium featured three experts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Each expert brought a unique perspective and context to the conversation. Steel Wagstaff (Educational Technology Consultant), Kris Olds (Professor of Geography), and Carrie Nelson (Librarian and Director of Scholarly Communication) presented at morning workshops and participated in an afternoon panel.

Both faculty and staff attended with the symposium, with representatives from the Kelley School of Business, the School of Education, UITS, the Office of Financial Literacy, and the Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs present. By the end of the day, at least one faculty member had switched from traditional course content to an affordable, digital eText! We've also already met with one faculty member interested in student-created Open Educational Resources (OER) and plan to have several follow up conversations in the coming months.

Participants chose one of two morning workshops: "Making Open Textbooks and Other Interactive Learning Activities with Pressbooks" with Steel Wagstaff or "Supporting Campus and Course-Level Adoption of Open Course Content" with Carrie Nelson and Kris Olds. These workshops were informative and informal, shaped by participants' questions and centered on hands-on application.

In Kris and Carrie's session, we discussed the basics of open/affordable and covered Creative Commons licensing, which allowed us to have a more in-depth conversation about the process/funding needed to create OER, governance and course material selection, student outreach, and the political economy of OER. Kris and Carrie also shared successful strategies for raising awareness about OER on their campus, which several participants felt was the most pressing barrier to more systematic adoption.

Robert McDonald, Associate Dean for Research and Technology Strategies, kicked off the afternoon panel with contextual information about the price of course materials at IUB and how these costs impact students. The panel opened with an overview of current initiatives at IU Bloomington, presented by Michele Kelmer and Michael Regoli. The panel transitioned to presentations from our UW-Madison guest experts. Each of the guest's presentations demonstrated that UW-Madison is engaging in innovative work around OER creation and community building.

I was inspired by several parts of the panel, but there are two slides I'd like to highlight here as essential and foundational for shaping the Office of Scholarly Publishing's outreach at IU Bloomington.

- Steel's guiding principles for his work:
    - Go anywhere
    - Talk to everyone
    - Say 'yes… **you** can'
    - Find partners, champions, and enthusiasts
    - Build local capacity

- Carrie's argument that OER and affordable course material content work aligns with library values around:
    - Access
    - Confidentiality/Privacy
    - Democracy
    - Diversity
    - Education and Lifelong Learning
    - Intellectual Freedom
    - The Public Good
    - Preservation
    - Professionalism
    - Service
    - Social Responsibility

These points were both encouraging and motivating to me. The Scholarly Communication Department is invested in instructor agency and autonomy, student access, and building local expertise at IU Bloomington. We hope to continue to find champions and enthusiasts that can partner with us to make these goals possible.

There were several goals for symposium: to build community around course material issues, to connect instructors and relevant staff from key offices on campus, to raise awareness about the spectrum of existing affordable course material work happening at IU Bloomington, and to guide the future of Office of Scholarly Publishing services. Additionally, we hoped to solidify a working partnership with IUPUI, as guests from UW-Madison also visited their campus during open education week.

We know the conversation doesn't end after the symposium. I look forward to continuing to work with instructors on affordable and open course material creation and adoption at IU Bloomington. But I also hope to partner with librarians within the IU system, Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), and Unizin. OER is one of my research interests and professional passions and I hope that IU Libraries staff can work on OER adoption and creation consortially, as a professional community.

Resources
- To learn more about finding and adopting Open Educational Resources (OER), visit IU Libraries new guide: http://guides.libraries.indiana.edu/oer.
- To learn more about finding and adopting eTexts, visit the UITS site: https://etexts.iu.edu/.
- To apply for an information literacy grant to redesign your course around student-created OER and open pedagogy, visit the IUB Teaching and Learning site: https://libraries.indiana.edu/course-grants (check site for proposal deadlines)
- Contact iusw@indiana.edu with questions about OER, affordable course material, Creative Commons licensing, and Pressbooks.

Note: This article is a slightly modified version of an original blog posting (https://blogs.libraries.indiana.edu/scholcomm/2018/03/12/openedrecap/).