

Project Statements 2017/18

Project Name: Open Educational Resources (OER)

Project Lead: Olga Perkovic

Project Team: The OER Working Group (OER WG) consists of the members below.

Joanne Kehoe, Program Manager, eCampusOntario (Co-Chair)

Olga Perkovic, Research and Advanced Studies Librarian (Co-Chair)

Nancy Bouchier, Professor, Dept. of History

Nidia Cerna, Instructional Designer, Centre for Continuing Education

Ryan Deshpande, VP Education, McMaster Students Union

Tim Nolan, Director, Student Accessibility Services

Fiona O'Connor, Course Materials Buyer, Campus Store

Denise Smith, Education and BHSc Liaison Librarian, Health Sciences Library

Liam Stockdale, Instructional Designer, Centre for Continuing Education

Zafar Syed, Associate Director, MacPherson Institute

Tim Van Boxtel, President, Graduate Students Association

Project Goals:

Take a lead role in building understanding and raising awareness of the advantages of using OERs (educational materials that are free to use and reuse without charge). During 2017/18 a special focus will be put on free (open) textbooks.

Linked to the following Strategic Directions:

#1 Research Acceleration: Enable new and emerging models for advancing knowledge and accelerating the University's research mission.

#4 Learning: Facilitate deep learning and creativity for students through the provision of innovative physical and virtual environments, services and learning opportunities.

Scope (work the project will include and will not include; end results)

The project will include the formation of an OER WG; the members will seek opportunities to promote the use of open textbooks and will prepare documentation for administrators to establish an OER standing group or committee.

Time Frame (estimated)

Academic year 2017/2018 (Sept. 2017 to April 2018)

Risks (circumstances or events outside of the project team's control that will have a high adverse impact on the project if they occur)

The work of the group is at a grassroots level, which may limit level of interest in and involvement with open textbooks as an option for coursework beyond the current participants.

Obstacles/Constraints

A challenge has been the formation of the OER WG at a grassroots level.

While the group has good representation across campus, the grassroots nature and current lack of funding to support OER initiatives may hamper efforts to move the initiative forward.

Critical Milestones

An OER WG was created in Sept. 2017; three meetings have been held over the course of two terms.

Several members of the OER WG participated in events organized by the McMaster Students Union and OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance) during the #TextbookBroke provincial campaign, Jan. 8-19, 2018.

Assessment plan (how will we know if this project is successful?)

The project will be successful if the Terms of Reference document and Recommendations report are approved by the Library Leadership Group and the MacPherson Institute. A key component of this success will be the formation of an OER standing group or committee.

Update #1 (February 2018)

1. What have you accomplished to date?
 - Co-created an OER WG in Fall 2017. Held three meetings to-date.
 - Raised awareness of OER and open textbooks at a faculty event held during the #TextbookBroke campaign, Jan. 18, 2018.
 - Submitted an application to eCampusOntario to receive a Mini Open Textbook Library consisting of up to ten texts from the Open Textbook Library that would be suitable for McMaster Library.
 - Drafted an OER LibGuide.

2. What do you hope to accomplish in the next 3 months?
 - If successful with the eCampusOntario application, participate in Open Education Week, March 5-9, 2018 by creating a display in Mills Library to showcase a selection of high quality, print textbooks from the Open Textbook Library.
 - Work with Erica Balch to write an article about Open Education Week and the Mini Open Textbook Library for the library blog and McMaster Daily News.
 - Complete and publish the OER LibGuide.
 - Complete the Terms of Reference document with intended submission to the University Librarian and the VP, Teaching and Learning Director, MacPherson Institute.
 - Complete the Recommendations report with intended submission to the University Librarian and the VP, Teaching and Learning Director, MacPherson Institute.

3. What obstacles/constraints have you encountered (not noted above)?
 - N/A

Update #2 (April 2018)