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Open-Educational Resources (OERs) in the College Classroom: A Case Study

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Open Educational Resources (OERs) in the College Classroom: A Case Study

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What are OERs?

"Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you may freely use and reuse, without charge."

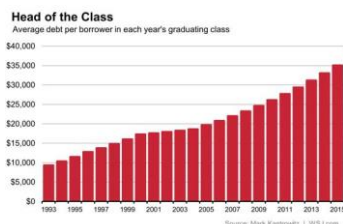
https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/What_is_OER%3F

Why use OERs?

Free

More accessible and flexible (for students and instructors)

Average student loan debt



Textbook cost

Students spend on average \$1200/year on textbooks and supplies (The College Board, 2015).

Current research (Spring 2015)

Purpose: To examine the effectiveness and student perceptions of an OER textbook

Participants: Students in two introductory psychology classrooms at Georgia Southwestern State University

N = 68 (n [each class] = 34)

Materials

Traditional Textbook

"Psychology in Everyday Life"

David Myers and C. Nathan DeWall

~\$100



OER Textbook

"Introduction to Psychology"

Charles Stangor

Free



Methodology

Quasi-experimental design

Predictors (type of textbook used):

Traditional textbook

Open, electronic textbook

Outcome measures:

Effectiveness (i.e., student performance)

Student perceptions (i.e., questionnaire results)

Student perceptions questionnaire

Sample questions:

I like the idea of (not buying/buying) the textbook for this class. (1 = Strongly disagree, 7 = Strongly agree)

I prefer using the online, open-source textbook versus buying a normal paper textbook for this class. (1 = Strongly disagree, 7 = Strongly agree)

Compared to my experience with normal textbooks in other courses, I use the online textbook... (1 = Much less, 7 = Much more)

I like the idea of the (normal paper/online, open-source) textbook. (1 = Strongly disagree, 7 = Strongly agree)

I would still like to have a normal textbook to use in addition to the online textbook in this class. (1 = Strongly disagree, 7 = Strongly agree)

Rate your overall satisfaction with the (normal paper/online, open-source) textbook. (1 = Completely dissatisfied, 7 = Completely satisfied)

Rate the level of quality of the textbook you used in this course. (1 = Very bad, 7 = Very good)

Rate the level of difficulty of using the textbook. (1 = Very difficult, 7 = Very easy)

Results

Student Performance

Group Statistics				
	Condition	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Final Exam Grades	1 (Paper)	34	2.218750	1.475266520
	2 (Online)	34	2.090909	1.3314380
				Std. Error Mean
				.2530061209
				.2283397332

Results

Student Perceptions

Students who used the OER were more likely to agree with the following statements:

"I like the idea of not buying a textbook for this course."

"I prefer using the free, online textbook versus buying a traditional textbook for this course."

"I would still like to have a traditional textbook to use in addition to the online textbook in this course."

Results

Question: "If given the choice between a traditional textbook and free, online textbook, which would you prefer?"

CONDITION • Q22 Crosstabulation		Q22		
		1	2	Total
CONDITION 1	Count	20	9	29
	% within CONDITION	69.0%	31.0%	100.0%
	% within Q22	69.0%	30.0%	49.2%
	% of Total	33.9%	15.3%	49.2%
2	Count	9	21	30
	% within CONDITION	30.0%	70.0%	100.0%
	% within Q22	31.0%	70.0%	50.8%
	% of Total	15.3%	35.6%	50.8%
Total	Count	29	30	59
	% within CONDITION	49.2%	50.8%	100.0%
	% within Q22	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	49.2%	50.8%	100.0%

Conclusions

No statistically significant differences between two groups' course performance

Students generally preferred the text they were given

Suggests that exposure to OERs may help students become more receptive to using OERs in future courses

Future directions

Department-wide adoption of OERs for introductory psychology (PSYC 1101) and sociology courses (SOCI 1101)

Adoption of OERs in additional lower-level and upper-level courses

PSYC 2103: Human Growth and Development

PSYC 4431: Experimental Psychology

SOCI 1160: Contemporary Social Problems

SOCI 4440: Methods of Social Research

Resources

[Merlot II](#)

[Openstax](#)

[Saylor Foundation](#)

[Open Textbook Library](#)

[USG Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook](#)

[Transformation Grants](#) (Round 5 proposals due December 15)