Affordable Course Materials through Open Educational Resources (OER) Project

Overview
The Library, in collaboration with the Hub is conducting a multi-year project to introduce and promote the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (UMD) to enrich the student learning experience and reduce the course materials for students. For this project OER is defined as any electronic resource that can be freely or easily made available to students as an alternative to traditional course materials. OER may include licensed content from the library; primary sources and other published materials made available online via museums, archives, scholarly organizations; materials created and shared by faculty at other colleges or materials created by the faculty member him/herself.

Objective
The objective of this project is to increase the awareness and usage of OER textbooks and other freely available materials in courses offered at UMD. This awareness and usage of OER will ultimately create a measurable cost savings for students at UMD.

Outcomes
After this project there will be:

- A recognized awareness of OER at UMD
- A demonstrated increase in the usage of OER in courses offered at UMD
- A demonstrated increase in usage of library resources in courses offered at UMD
- A measured materials cost savings for students at UMD

Timeline of Action Items
1. Team formed in July 2017
   a. Teague Orblych (Library, Lead)
   b. Anna Granch, (Library)
   c. Tyler Guenette (Office of Student Success)
   d. Raya Samet (Library)
   e. Tim Streasick (Library)

2. Education and information gathering July – September 2017 (And throughout the life of the project)
   a. Articles have been and will be read
   b. Webinars have been and will be viewed
   c. Conferences will be attended
      i. Anna and Tim will be attending the OER Summit in September
      ii. Teague is attending the OER Conference in October
d. Meetings will be and have been conducted to define what OER is and to determine the projects structure and assessment strategies. Meetings include:
   a. Committee meetings
   b. Meetings with other librarians
   c. Potential meetings with students and faculty
   d. Potential meetings with other stakeholders on campus, which includes the HUB
   e. Potential meetings with other library and university OER project leaders

3. Conduct student and faculty surveys September 2017
   a. Student textbook usage survey
      i. This will be conducted to gather information on how UMD students are impacted by the costs of textbooks and course materials
      ii. This will provide us with practical data that will help us frame a discussion with the faculty about alternatives to the traditionally high priced textbooks
   b. Faculty survey
      i. We will be able to determine with this survey the faculty’s level of understanding of OER
      ii. We will be able to determine the faculty’s needs in this area
      iii. We will be able to determine the faculty’s willingness to collaborate with us on the usage of OER

4. Marketing campaign September 2017 – duration of project
   a. An email will be sent to faculty introducing the survey we would like them to complete
   b. The initial email will include information about the project and OER in particular and it will also include the link to our LibGuide for the project:
      http://guides.umd.umich.edu/OER_at_the_Mardigian_Library
   c. There will be further periodic emails to faculty in a potentially targeted manner

5. Workshop development October – December 2017
   a. Based on the meetings and surveys workshops will be developed
   b. We will work with the Hub or other interested stakeholders to present needed workshops

6. Workshops held January – May 2018

7. Collaborators will be identified January – May 2018
   a. Through successful workshops potential collaborators will be identified
   b. Through successful marketing potential collaborators will be identified

8. Initiate pilot May – August 2018
   a. Work with faculty to locate OER, freely available materials, or library resources
9. Implement pilot in class – September – November 2018
   a. This is the in class portion of the pilot
   b. Survey faculty and students involved in pilot about their impressions of OER

10. Project review December 2018
    a. Conduct assessment
       i. Survey faculty about new attitudes
       ii. Determine cost savings of students
       iii. Determine increased usage of library resources
    b. Update all stakeholders on the initial success of the project

11. Best practices and procedures will be established for going forward
    a. Based on any assessment of the project procedures for going forward need to be set
       like application forms to initiate collaborations