

From Poster to Pedagogy: The 10-Year Evolution of Open at the University of Saskatchewan

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ABOUT USASK

The University of Saskatchewan is located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and is situated on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis.

It is a medical doctoral university with more than 25,000 students.

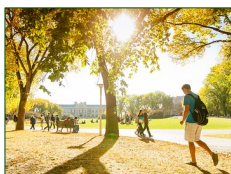


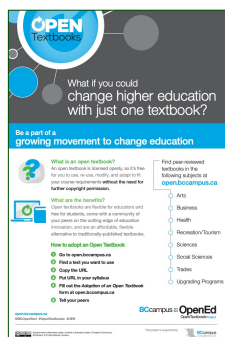
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TEAMS & TOOLS

- The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning (GMCTL) took the lead on advancing the use of OER and open pedagogy.
- The Distance Education Unit (now part of the GMCTL) works with instructors on many textbook creations and adaptations.
- Bookstore supports OER through promotion and facilitating print-on-demand service.
- Library brought in as a partner.
- Undergraduate Student Union helps educate students about barriers instructors face to using OER.
- Workshops offered regularly.
- Funding for graduate and undergraduate students and for sessional instructors who work on OER projects outside of class they may be in.
- Pressbooks as main OER platform
- Open repository set up by Library for other OER materials created at USask.

KEY MILESTONES

- **2014-2015** – BCcampus poster hung up outside of teaching and learning centre. First adoption of an open textbook in a large class (**300 USask students benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2015-2016** – Two instructors in Edwards School of Business create first adaptation of an open textbook at USask. Students cheer them on the first day. Province of Saskatchewan announces funding to support creation of open textbooks at USask, University of Regina, and Sask Polytechnic (**900 USask students benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2016-2017** – First three open textbook projects under provincial funding at USask begin. Two of the three are failures (**2,700 USask students are benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2019-2020** – Professor in Psychology completes a major adaptation involving taking content from three different existing OER and adding new material for use in first-year Psychology courses (**6,700 USask students are benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2020-2021** – First full year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor in Education has students in a graduate course engage in open pedagogy to create a Canadian version of *Project Management for Instructional Designers*. (**9,100 USask students are benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2022-2023** – USask creates its own OER poster based on three A's of open educational practices – Access, alignment, and Agency. Professor in Indigenous Studies has graduate students engage in open pedagogy by contributing their work to an open journal, comprised of only student work that issue. First-year of Engineering programs use mostly OER (**12,600 USask students are benefitting from OER at USask**).
- **2024-2025** – Professors in Women and Gender Studies have students contribute to a new website, “Queering the Classroom: Tools for Gender, Sexuality and Social Justice.” This site of student work through open pedagogy will continue to grow each year with new student contributions. (**13,000 USask students are benefitting from OER at USask**).



WHAT WE DON'T DO

- Instructors not paid for adoption of OER. Financial support available to facilitate adoption such as paying graduate students to create new slides and other ancillary materials often provided by commercial publishers.
- “Textbook Broke” campaigns are not run at USask because USask Bookstore is an ally. Undergraduate Student Union has given some awards to instructors who engage in open educational practice.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- Ensure backing of instructors' departments before funding projects. Some departments use collegial processes for choosing materials. Also, frequent changes in which instructors teach which courses can lead to move back to commercial textbooks without strong department support for OER.
- Try to meet instructors and departments where they're at in terms of priorities (e.g. if Indigenization is important to them, show how open can support that work).
- Intentionally tie open to all areas of teaching and learning to get the benefits into a broad range of conversations.

WHAT'S NEXT

- USask, University of Regina, and Sask Polytechnic are moving to a joint provincial Pressbooks catalogue in the spring.
- Continue to grow use of open pedagogy in courses across USask.
- Get instructors from across USask to test using open or lower cost alternatives to commercial homework systems to further the growth in use of OER across the institution.