Enhancing the Discoverability of Open Textbooks:
The European Initiative of the LIBER Educational Resources WG

Session: Learning from pitfalls and embracing the promises of Open Educational Resources collection development

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Where we come from: ZBW and ZHAW

- **ZBW**: very large special library for business and economics and related subjects, founded in 1919, part of the Leibniz Association, situated in Kiel and Hamburg, Germany.
- The **ZHAW** is one of the leading universities of applied sciences in Switzerland.
The **LIBER Working Group Educational Resources**

- aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources to staff and students. In 2023-2024, the focus will be on **promoting and advancing in the area of open textbooks**.

- As LIBER libraries are supporting research universities with collections and research support, during recent years their focus has broadened to include teaching and learning.

- 18 **members** from 11 countries in August 2023
Enhancing Discoverability of Open Textbooks

- Educational publications are different from research collections:
  - There are no consortium deals for educational content
  - Resources come in different forms and shapes
  - Language is a more important factor in education than in research
  - Publishers have increasingly restrictive and costly models of provision

- Status quo and findings of the two first work packages on open textbooks in the LIBER educational resources working group
  - Discoverability and collection curation
  - Measuring and assessing impact
Status Quo: Similar Struggles everywhere

I think it is hard to find relevant open textbooks – even though there are many platforms out there.

I find it hard, too

Yes, I agree

How can we include and present them?
How to find relevant OER?
Status Quo: Use collective wisdom

OER for _______ with focus on _______ ? 9 views

Hello!
I have a faculty member who is looking at what options exist for OER in _______. Any suggestions?
I have found _______ but wasn't sure if I was missing any.

Thanks!
Can you find the difference between the two pictures?
Question

- How can we make it easier to find the needle in the haystack?
  - if we assume there is a needle out there - somewhere
How can we enhance the discoverability of open textbooks - in our own discovery systems?

- **Find and identify the right content**
  - Which relevant collections are out there?
  - Do they fit the institutions quality criteria?
  - Do they have good metadata?
  - Do they have an API or interfaces or dumps?
  - Is a subject selection possible?

- **Which aggregators can be used for this?**
  - [DOAB](https://www.doabcollection.org), [OERSI](https://www.oersi.org), [Pressbooks](https://pressbooks.com)…
Motivation for improved discoverability

- **Educators**: Find great resources for teaching fast and easily, don’t have to worry about students’ budgets or remixing sources.

- **Authors** of Open Textbooks: Make the world a better place, improve teaching, freedom, get recognition for their work.

- **Libraries**: Show that their systems help to find good, relevant, reusable resources fast.

- **Administrators**: Save money and show impact of institutional staff (x amount of money saved, x downloads and reuses for textbooks produced by our institution).
Some findings from LIBER Working group and workshop

existing collections that offer quality control

- Finland HELDA open, national service of publications, www.aoe.fi ...
- OAPEN Library oapen.org
- Open textbook library, open education network, open.umn.edu
- TU Delft Open Textbooks
- OERSI
- Openlogic project, open source, collaborative, logic text
- Edusources.nl, repository and community supported lists
- What is “collection”? Publishing house? Built selection?...

quality criteria

- Availability of linked data, e.g. author’s affiliation
- Recommendations from others, known authors
- Is the publisher well-known, recognized? ...
- background information about who the book is aimed at / Level of programme
- Version control, unique identifiers to track versions
- Peer review process but also: community created and use of informal peer review
- How up-to-date is this book?
- Reassuring impact and usage...

cornerstones for collection curation

- Versions, formats, standards
- use GitHub? But do library systems work with GitHub?
- How to include more dynamic books?
- Interoperability between platforms
- Good metadata
- Peer review (but only real peer review)
- How do students like a particular book?
- ...
Example **EconBiz**: Filters: free & textbook: Result: 55 publications – more could probably be found

Not all relevant publications have the label „textbook“, „freely available“ does not necessarily mean open licence → Still a lot of work ahead
LIBER Working Group Work Packages

高低值选择

高价值

- 学习并了解当前目录/发现系统中的现有资源
- 文献综述
- 发现最佳实践
- 检查其他项目（如开放获取书籍平台欧洲或CA Monographs）
- 询问教师他们发现的教科书
- 标准化/整合教科书元数据
- 包含教科书集合
- 维护并建立教科书集合之间的关联

低价值

- 学习和了解当前目录/发现系统中的现有资源
- 文献综述
- 发现最佳实践
- 检查其他项目（如开放获取书籍平台欧洲或CA Monographs）
- 询问教师他们发现的教科书
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立即执行

- 学习并了解当前目录/发现系统中的现有资源
- 文献综述
- 发现最佳实践
- 检查其他项目（如开放获取书籍平台欧洲或CA Monographs）
- 询问教师他们发现的教科书
- 标准化/整合教科书元数据
- 包含教科书集合

下一步执行

- 学习并了解当前目录/发现系统中的现有资源
- 文献综述
- 发现最佳实践
- 检查其他项目（如开放获取书籍平台欧洲或CA Monographs）
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ZBW
Leibniz-Informationszentrum
Wirtschaft
Leibniz Information Centre for Economics
Thank you for listening!

Who can say this about their collection?
Questions and Contact Infos

• Do you have any questions? Contact us!

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