Organizing for OER Action
Recommendations for Statewide OER Initiative Governance Structures

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CNI Spring 2020 Meeting
April 6, 2020
TODAY – Three Things

• Emergence of statewide OER initiatives

• Findings from surveys of leaders and participants in existing statewide initiatives

• Recommendations for governance models for statewide OER initiatives
Statewide OER Action Story
Pennsylvania has approximately 150 public and private colleges and universities

In the Philadelphia region alone there are more than 60 colleges and universities in a 25-mile radius

Prior to 2016 not one of them was collaborating with the others on textbook affordability
Began in 2016 with a small organizing group.

PALCI was invited to provide experience managing statewide projects (e.g. DPLA)

Initial goal was to obtain an LSTA grant to fund several initiatives.

Reached out to other OTN consortia members to identify organizing structures.
Getting Organized

• Contacted directors of several statewide textbook affordability
• Goal was to develop an organizational structure for ALPa
• Discovered something interesting
How ALPa Works: Governance Structure

Steering Committee:
Steven Bell, Rebecca Miller, Charlotte Droll, Barb Zaborowski, Sarah Greene, & PALCI Staff

Project Coordinator

OER Specialist

OER Specialist

OER Specialist

OER Specialist

Data Gathering & Assessment Working Group

Communications & Outreach Working Group

Training & Education Working Group

OER Publishing & Repository Platforms

Campus Partners

Open Textbook Network (OTN)

OER Community: Faculty Champions, Textbook Reviewers, Adopters, Students, Advocates
Questions?

• What do we know about the organizational structures of existing statewide OER initiatives?

• Are there any particular governance models that excel?

• What is the experience of librarians and others serving on these structures?

• What is a recommended structure for new initiatives?
Q. 1: Are you aware of your state’s OER initiative? (Y/N/IDN)

Q. 2: Are you a participant in your state’s OER initiative? (Y/N)

Q. 3: Do you know your state OER leaders are? (Y/N)
Survey Findings
Survey Overview

- Created two surveys
- One for project directors; one for librarian participants
- Focused on consortial members of OTN
- More recently surveyed “state OER leaders”
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State OER Leaders Top Issues

1. Obtain adequate funding

2. Obtain support from top academic administrators

3. Create awareness among and educate teaching faculty about OER

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ox-iHRi69oqtasPAj6x0H0y946WLBYbmRZ-ajOtodQE/edit#
Who Participated

- OER librarians
- Consortia administrators
- Scholarly communications librarians
- Academic administrators (deans or provosts)
- Other librarians (reference, electronic resources, etc)
- Other academics (teaching/learning, general faculty)
- Government officials
How Did You Join

- Part of my job responsibilities – 26%
- Appointed by my Dean – 23%
- Replied to a call for members – 23%
- Was asked to join by a colleague – 16%
- Consortia staff member – 12%
Why Did You Join

• Advance OER projects Statewide – 23%
• Support Student Affordability – 23%
• Encouraged by my supervisor – 16%
• Represent my library – 16%
• Active in this consortia – 12%
• My commitment to “open” – 12%
OER Experience Level

- Advanced/Expert – 8%
- Experienced But Not Expert – 10%
- Basic Knowledge – 47%
- Beginner/Novice – 35%

* 88% of participants report their OER expertise increased after joining governing body
Top Participant Tasks

# 1 – Training (deliver OER workshops)
# 2 – Outreach / Promotion of OER Resources and Services
# 3 - Organize Programs and Events
# 4 – Develop Policies
# 5 – Planning and Grant Proposals

* Sample Projects: E-book Acquisition Program; Teach an OTN workshop; Created a faculty OER survey; Analyze data on pilot project; Present at statewide OER summit; Create outreach material; Develop OER resource list
Sample Governance Models

• Co-led by consortia staff member and a librarian serving as “system leader” (selected by board)

• Administrative team that reports to consortia Scholarly Communications Advisory Group

• Steering committee/team of 8 “affordable learning ambassadors” working with staff

• Government agency - usually Dept of Ed - leads initiative for state
More Models

- Advisory committee that reports to our Librarians Council

- Affordable Learning administrative group made up of representatives from each library member

- Member-based steering committee, OER specialists and campus partners take on different responsibilities (set policy; training; outreach)

  * Average number of governing body participants from member libraries is 6 - 10
Chat Activity

Q. 1: What model would you advocate for? (C or G/InD)

Q. 2: What model are you aware of in your state or.. what model do you prefer? (open text response)
Recommendations
Recommendations Pt. 1

- If there are too few consortia staff to lead the OER initiative at the state level then enlist librarians to lead it and form groups to accomplish tasks.

- Steering committees composed of OER advocates that offer institutional and geographic diversity are a good choice for a statewide OER initiatives.

- Level of OER expertise is less critical than the need for enthusiasm and commitment to OER and textbook affordability; skills can be learned.
Recommendations Pt. 2

- Governing body participation at any level, from steering committee to campus ambassador, is an excellent vehicle to expand the number and expertise of OER advocates across the state.

- Few governing bodies organize participants into working groups but these could focus on training, outreach, data collection and other functions.

- Work towards a governance structure that makes the OER initiative independent from its fiscal agent – so it achieves sustainability.
Next Steps for Research

• Does a particular model create more results/impact

• Who leads – librarians; consortia staff; neither

• What do statewide initiative groups accomplish

• How to involve faculty and others

• What comes after statewide initiatives
Chat Activity

Q. 1: Will you get involved in your state’s OER initiative? (Y/N/IDN)

Q. 2: Which do you think will be more critical in advancing OER and textbook affordability? (State/Library)
DISCUSSION