OERs and Alt-Texts in Technical Services: How to Get the Job Done

Course-Adopted Texts at Joyner Library, East Carolina University

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What are Alt-Texts

- Course-adopted texts (CATs)
- Freely available
- Can be articles or books from library
- Can be open access
Examples of Alt-Texts

- Two places you can find open textbooks are at Oapen [http://www.oapen.org/home](http://www.oapen.org/home) and Open Textbook Library [https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)

- Some examples of ECU CATs:
  - *Bloodchild and Other Stories* by Octavia Butler
  - *Encyclopedia of Urban Legends* by Jan Brunvand
  - *Job Search Handbook for People with Disabilities* by Daniel Ryan
Classes Using CATs

- Lower level and upper level courses
- From anthropology to theatre
- Both on-campus and distance ed
Bookstore Cooperation

- Reluctant partners at first, but now willingly participate
- We ask them for “The List”: spreadsheet with resource, author, edition, publication year, course, section, instructor
The List

- The raw list needs to be cleaned up
- It needs to be searched in Serials Solutions to see if we could have access to the titles
- Then it gets searched in Gobi to see what type of license we could buy for each title: we’re primarily interested in unlimited license e-books
Buy-in from Faculty

- Send faculty emails
  - Ask if they’d be willing to let students use electronic version
  - Most say yes
  - A few say no
    - Royalties
    - Students should own book for future reference
    - Concerns about access
    - Absence of content in online that is included in print
    - Image Quality
Getting the Item

- We purchase the item like any other e-book
- Activate it in Serials Solutions
- Update the LibGuide: http://libguides.ecu.edu/coursetexts
- Catalog it so it’s in our catalog
Projected Savings

- Track number of courses, sections, number of students and bookstore cost and library cost and you can come up with an estimated savings amount
- The library spent $6,141.77
- It saved approximately $241,876.66
- Involved 144 professors
- 235 class sections
- 167 titles in all, some of which were already held by ECU
Usage

- What types of usage are we seeing
  - User sessions
  - Number of pages viewed
  - Pages printed
  - Full title downloads
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What We’ve Learned

- Editions matter
- Nothing with course access codes
- EBL concurrent license has worked
- Added publishers: JSTOR, ProjectMuse
- Least DRM possible
- Some always fall through the cracks and we have to pick them up later
- Remember to count repeating courses over multiple semesters when calculating cost savings
For the Future

• Would a 3 concurrent user license be ok for a small seminar class?
• Make LibGuide into something better
  • Database driven replacement

Reference: