OER in University Language Courses

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OER in University Language Courses

Jenny Ceciliano
Faculty Retreat Keynote
Institute of World Languages
University of Virginia
May 6, 2022

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Hello!

Jenny Ceciliano
Coordinator of First-year Spanish at Portland State University
M.A. in Spanish 2006
M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy 2015
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy expected in 2024
Author of OER text: ¡Empecemos por aquí! Beginning Spanish 2022
Experience, research, and interest

Open Educational Resources

Faculty development

Universal design for learning

Culturally responsive teaching

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Program Assessment and Evaluation

Operationalizing DEI learning outcomes

Teaching Spanish

Culturally responsive teaching

Universal design for learning

Faculty development

Open Educational Resources
Our roadmap

1. What is OER?
2. Benefits and challenges
3. Equity and inclusion
4. My OER experience
5. Lessons learned
6. Next steps
Preparing to participate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanoi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What is OER?
What is your starting point?

✓ What do you already know about OER?
✓ How confident or enthusiastic do you feel about using OER?
The 5 Rs of OER

Retain
You can keep your own copy and use it forever.

Revise
You can make edits.

Reuse
You can use the content in a variety of ways (videos, activities, documents).

Remix
You can combine material from multiple sources.

Redistribute
You can republish what you have remixed/revised.

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5R’s: based on original writing by David Wiley, published freely under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license at http://opencontent.org/definition/
Textbook affordability in a pandemic

- **79%** Impacted by the pandemic
- **86%** Students who faced food insecurity skipped buying or renting a textbook
- **65%** Skipped buying or renting a textbook
- **21%** Skipped buying an access code

OER improve end-of-course grades for all students, and do so at greater rates for Pell recipient students, part-time students, and populations historically underserved by higher education. (Colvard et al. 2018)
Good for instructors and coordinators

- Adapt and customize
- Build on existing resources
- Incorporate others’ expertise
- Fix what’s not working
Good for students

- Free
- Accessible
- Relevant
- Consistent
Barriers to implementation

- Availability of high-quality OER
- Time, support, and skills required to locate and vet OER
- Ensuring appropriate licensing
Farida Bedwei es una científica de Ghana.
C'est une scientifique du Ghana
她是来自加纳的科学家
Она ученый из Ганы
彼女はガーナの科学者です
What is (not) working well?

✓ What do you like about your current textbook and/or curriculum?
✓ What do you or your students dislike?
Equity and inclusion
Beyond language acquisition and content

**Diversity**
Our courses reflect appreciation and celebration of multiple perspectives.

**Equity**
Our courses are accessible to students of all backgrounds. All students have the support and resources they need in order to be successful.

**Inclusion**
Our curriculum respects and values the perspectives and lived experiences of people of all backgrounds.
What is the underlying message?

✓ Using this word bank, write about your family.
✓ Describe your ideal boyfriend or girlfriend.
✓ Where did you go on your last vacation?
✓ Identify which part of your house is for each of the following activities.
✓ Explain how their culture is different from ours.
✓ Let’s plan a trip to another country.
✓ You may already have some experience in the language, but in this class you will learn the correct way to use it.
Beware of...

✓ Models that perpetuate stereotypes
✓ Overrepresentation of those who are already overrepresented
✓ Only including difference when the difference is being highlighted
✓ Assumptions about shared experiences
✓ Positioning someone as the holder of knowledge
✓ Ignoring or devaluing adult students’ expertise
✓ Requiring students to demonstrate learning in a specific way
What is the hidden curriculum?

✓ Whose voices and perspectives are given the most space in the classroom? (Any examples?)
✓ Why does that matter?
✓ How can OER help?
My experience
Design, creation, and implementation of OER textbook and curriculum
My role

Coordinator of first-year Spanish
Portland State University. Admission language requirement of two quarters. BA requirement of two years.
Supporting instructors

Graduate teaching assistants

Everyone

Organization
Flexibility
Support
Clarity

Adjunct instructors

thenounproject.com/Iconathon1/collection/redefining-women/, Public Domain
Wish list

Free
Flexible
Research-based
Inclusive and representative
Language acquisition

✓ Meaningful exchange of information
✓ Most frequent words
✓ Interpretive, Interpersonal, Presentational
✓ Role of explicit grammar
Adult education

- Sense of belonging
- Bringing their own knowledge
- Relevant and meaningful
- Validation
- Identity exploration
- Multiple perspectives
If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

-African proverb
Beginning Spanish

Jenny Ceciliano & Lisa Notman
Online textbook
Funding

✓ Diversity grant
✓ OER grant through university library
✓ Professional development funds
✓ Department contribution
✓ Myself
We are defined by:

✓ Our enduring commitment to a vibrant and unique residential learning environment marked by the free and collegial exchange of ideas;

✓ Our unwavering support of a collaborative, diverse community bound together by distinctive foundational values of honor, integrity, trust, and respect;

✓ Our universal dedication to excellence and affordable access.

https://www.virginia.edu/statementofpurpose
What opportunities do you see?

What are you excited about?
Lessons learned
Somebody else already did it.

Or at least some of it.
Make the most of the opportunity

Do not just make a free version of a commercial textbook.
Backwards design

- Class exercises
- Formative assessments
- Homework assignments
- Supplementary materials
- Summative assessment (Learning objectives)
You are part of a team.

✓ What strengths do you each bring?
✓ How should decisions be made?
✓ How will you handle disagreement?
✓ What support do you have outside of your team?
What are your resources?

✓ What support do you have?
✓ What additional support might you be able to access?
Next steps
Open pedagogy

✓ Student-generated material
✓ Flexibility in assessment; multiple ways for students to demonstrate learning
✓ Phonetics and Phonology course
Afternoon workshop: From Ideas to Deliverables

1:15-2:45

What steps are you ready to take today?
Workshop

Resource collection
Using links to OER repositories, begin looking for OER content you could adopt and/or adapt.

Teamwork
Meet with your collaborators to develop your own plan.

Brainstorming
Using the provided organizers, start articulating your ideas.

Planning
Build a timeline, assessment plan, organization chart, or other tool outlining the steps for your project.
What is your next step?

✓ Identify **three** practical next steps for yourself.

✓ What can you have in place for the next academic year?
Thanks!

Any questions?
You can find me at:
✓ ceciliano@pdx.edu
✓ cecilianoj@gmail.com
Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

✓ Fresh Folk illustrations by Leni Kauffman
✓ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
✓ Photographs by Unsplash
✓ Some icons by Hand Drawn Goods, CC-BY 2.5
  http://handdrawngoods.com/freebies/