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# Inside an Open Educational Resource Initiative: PDXOpen at Portland State University

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# Inside an Open Educational Resource Initiative: PDX Open at Portland State University

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KAREN BJORK

HEAD OF DIGITAL INITIATIVES, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

# About Portland State University

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Public research university located in downtown Portland, Oregon

## Enrollment – Fall 2014

28,241 total

22,613 Undergraduate

5,628 Graduate

# PDXScholar

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Our mission is to provide a publishing outlet for scholarly work that does not fit other available publication models.

## Published

- ETDs
- Undergraduate Research
- Campus Grey Literature
- Conference Proceedings
- Research Articles Supplemental materials
- Datasets

# PSU Provost Challenge

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The Provost's Challenge allocated \$3 million in 2013 to fund and support twenty-four innovative faculty-staff activities to accelerate online learning and the use of innovative technology in educational delivery and to improve student success and graduation. The Provost's Challenge was fully implemented in June 2015



# PDX Open: Reducing Student Textbook Costs

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## Campus-wide call for proposals

- Geared towards a specific field of study
- Preferred proposals that applied to multiple, high-enrollment undergraduate courses

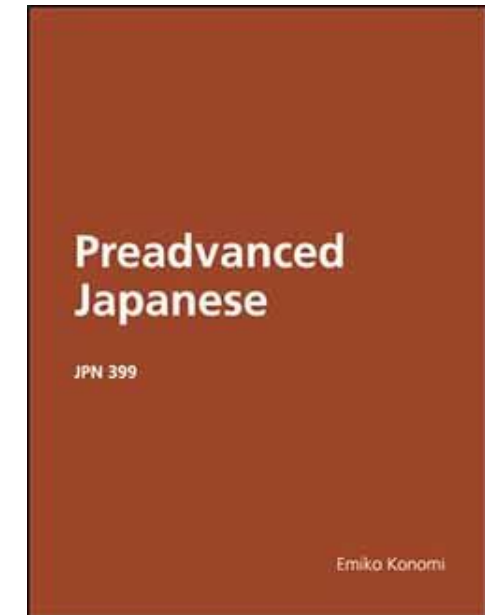
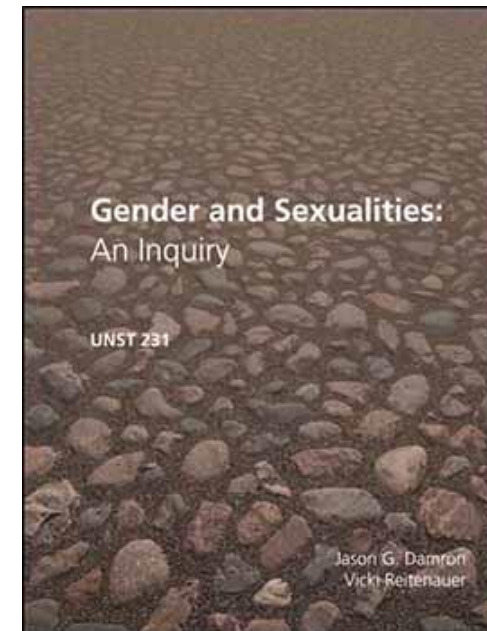
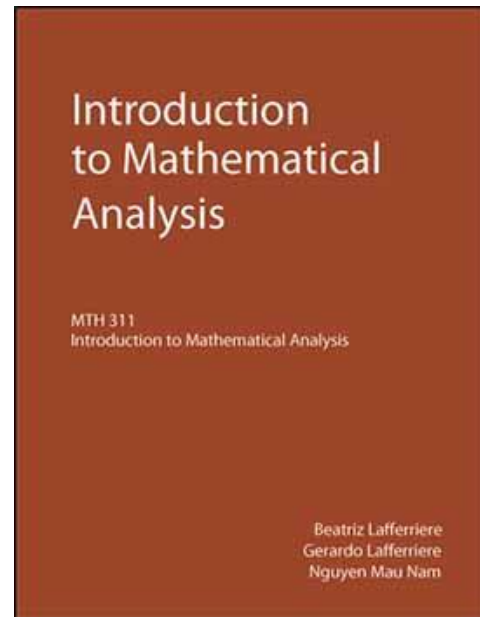
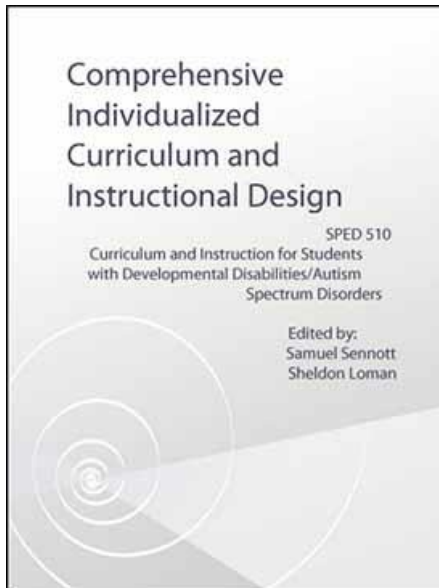
## Project offered

- Stipend of \$2,500
- Assistance with copyright clearance
- Cover design templates
- ISBN registration
- Creative Commons licensing support
- Print on demand services
- Project Manager

Project started in March 2014 and all five textbooks were completed by December 2014 / January 2015

# Outcome

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# Impact

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- Heightened the visibility of PSU's unique strengths by providing access to high quality open educational content created by PSU faculty
- Provided the library an opportunity to build a scholarly publishing infrastructure
- Gained a fuller understanding of faculty author needs related to open access textbook publishing
- Strengthened the Library's impact on teaching and learning at PSU
- Saved Students money



# Money Saved - One Term

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	<b>Cost of Required Textbook</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>
Preadvanced Japanese (Fall 2014)	\$100.00	17	\$1,700.00
Spatial Thinking in Planning Practice: An Introduction to GIS (Winter 2015)	\$141.14	22	\$3,105.08
Comprehensive Individualized Curriculum and Instructional Design (Winter 2015)	\$135.00	60	\$8,100.00
Introduction to Mathematical Analysis (Winter 2015)	\$100.00	34	\$3,400.00
Gender and Sexualities: An Inquiry (Winter 2015)	\$100.00	75	\$7,500.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$23,805.08</b>

# Lessons Learned

Idea of  
 creating a video  
 lecture as part of a  
 text

## Positives

- Support from the LIB
  - reachable
  - accessible
  - Support w/ completing work (pm)
  - liked that they could easily fix typos (through additional editions)
- Being able to engage graduate students in creating the text
- anyone in the world can now access the texts
- Time deadlines helpful, but unclear about how estimating to complete
- Students like that the text is free
- idea of whether others in MTH dept. would also use this text

# Lessons (reflections)

- weren't clear about book chapter authorship / copyright permissions pursued for a while, but ran into significant challenges
- warn authors in beginning about this - ? that they could do open source, too
- idea of having someone to edit (Library should provide or secure this service)
- idea of PSU creating a textbook template
- Copyright issues (PSU ownership) need to be worked out
- Suggestion to have sharing experiences between authors during the project, too
- Place for people who use text to provide feedback through PDX Scholar (Karen will)
- Workshop at beginning (can open access), too, would be helpful
- offering peer reviewers prior to submissions. ? finding the reviewers (accuracy checker in Math) check: let authors know - but not public
- MIT would not benefit from a template
- MIT issues were all technical
- Departmental decisions about how texts are used in the future
- Lack of clarity when they asked financial questions about the budget for MIT text was not helpful (lots of back & forth to illicit responses from Sally B.)
- If open to the world, quality is very important for junior faculty, open source books aren't valued as highly as journal articles

Strong for students in 2020

# Lessons Learned

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- Students were excited to use the books
- Opportunity for Graduate Students
- Authors wished for greater level of support
- Workflow management and timing
- Offered workshops on publishing and copyright
- Difficulty balancing this project with other publishing responsibilities

# Round Two

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- Received financial support from a Library donor, the Library and the Intensive English Language Program.
- Sought proposals for texts that are comprehensive works geared towards a specific field of study.
- Proposals had to be original content or a compilation of openly licensed materials.

Each applicant was required to include the following:

- Open textbook details - provide manuscript specifics such as a table of contents, chapter by chapter description, and estimated length
- Brief description on how the project meets the proposal criteria
- Statement of support from department chair, associate dean, or dean

# Round Two – Library is offering

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- \$2,500 stipend
- Project Management
  - monthly check-ins; budget assistance
- Publishing guidelines
  - Formatting, media, style & file Requirements
- Two Workshops
  - Copyright, Fair Use and Creative Commons
  - Self-publishing
- ISBN Registration
- Print on Demand Services

# Round Two – Partnership Outside the Library

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- Partnered with Ooligan Press, a general trade publisher affiliated with PSU and is staffed by students pursuing master's degrees in the Publishing Program
  - Offered workshop to authors on self-publishing academic work
  - Guidance on hiring copyeditors, designers and proofreaders

# Round Two – Open Textbooks

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Publishing 5 new open access textbooks – January 2016

- ESL academic preparation - designed for level 2 (low intermediate) reading course
- Beginning Japanese - designed for Masters of International Management Program
- Learning Korean through folktales – designed for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year Korean
- Learning Arabic – designed to assist students transition from Modern Standard Arabic to Colloquial Arabic
- Spanish literature and culture; an anthology - designed for Junior-level Spanish



# Sustainability and Future

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## Challenges

- Open textbooks creation is not rewarded in the current tenure system
- Financial support

## What can be done?

- Collaborate and partner with Administration, Faculty and Departments to create incentives
- Collaborate across institutions

# Thank you!

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