



# OER Update & Systemwide Survey Results

November 2023

Kansas Board of Regents  
Building a Future for Kansas Families, Businesses and the Economy



# Open Educational Resources (OER)

Teaching, Learning & Research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions.<sup>1</sup> That is, OER include built in permission to retain, revise, remix and redistribute the material.<sup>2</sup>

1. <https://en.unesco.org/themes/building-knowledge-societies/oer>

2. <https://opencontent.org/definition/>



# WHY OER?

- Since 1967, the cost of education books and supplies (primarily textbook costs) have increased over 2000% compared to less than 800% increase in overall consumer price index.<sup>3, 4</sup> Because of the high cost, many students forgo the purchase of textbooks due to limited funds, putting them at a disadvantage.
- With OER, all students get equal & immediate access to educational materials. Use of OER has also shown higher GPAs & a decline in DFW\* rates for all students, but with greater impact among Pell recipients, part-time & non-white students.<sup>5,6</sup>

\*D, F, W rates count students earning a D, F or  
Withdrawing from a class in a given semester.

3. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUSR0000SEEA>

4. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CPIAUCSL>

5. Clinton V & Khan S. Efficacy of Open Textbook Adoption on Learning Performance and Course Withdrawal Rates: A Meta-Analysis. AERA Open. 5(3): 2019. 1-20.

6. Colvard NB & Watson CE. The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics. 30(2): 2018. 262-275.



# OER Steering Committee



- Formed in 2019, is made up of representatives from most of our Kansas public higher education institutions. They work to educate & encourage use across Kansas public institutions.
- OER materials are not the **ONLY** answer to the problem of increasing curriculum costs; however we are striving to increase awareness of these resources and the work being done to make them better for students & instructors in Kansas



# OER Initiatives

Fall 2020 - [OER Webinar Series](#)

February 2021 - Sent out OER annual survey to collect baseline data on KBOR system OER Initiatives

2021-2022 - OER Workshops and Faculty Training

11 OER Faculty workshops for 192 systemwide participants  
78 participants reviewed an OER Textbook

8 Institutions hosted additional workshops for Professional Development

February 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas OER Virtual Summit

370 Registrants

73 Institutions

2022-2023- OER Roundtable Series

Informal discipline specific discussions about OER materials lead by faculty using OER in their courses.





# OER Future Initiatives

## **Fall 2023 - KBOR Libertext Subscription**

Free access for all 32 institutions-5 institutions starting with affiliate subscriptions. 9 institutions to be added in 2024

## **2023-2024 - SWT/High Enrollment Course Grant Program**

10 Faculty experts were selected from 2-year & 4-year institutions across the system to review and recommend OER materials for the following courses (Comp I, College Algebra, Elementary Statistics, Public Speaking & Intro to Psych).

## **February, 22 2024 - Showcase at the Rotunda**

Highlight the work of institutions with posters and information on OER initiatives across Kansas colleges. This year we will also advocate for the OER Legislative Budget Request to create a new OER Position and OER Grant Program to further OER Initiatives





# OER Initiatives Survey

- Sent out March 28, 2023 to the chief academic officers at each institution to gather baseline data on the OER Initiatives across our KBOR system schools.
- Chief academic officers could complete the survey or direct it to the appropriate faculty member to accurately respond to the survey questions.
- 30 out of 33 public institutions responded
- The survey was modeled after [Iowa Department of Education OER Survey Instrument](#)



# OER Initiatives Survey Major Findings

**A majority have a policy, program, or committee to support OER, but movement at other campuses appears to have stalled.**

- 7 of 7 Universities, 9 of 15 community colleges, 0 of 5 technical colleges have a policy, program or committee to support OER use. Only 5 institutions without do not have plans to develop one. These numbers are identical to the 2022 survey.

**Of the institutions who responded, only two have led applications for external grant awards**

- A total of four grants were reflected, none of which were successfully funded.

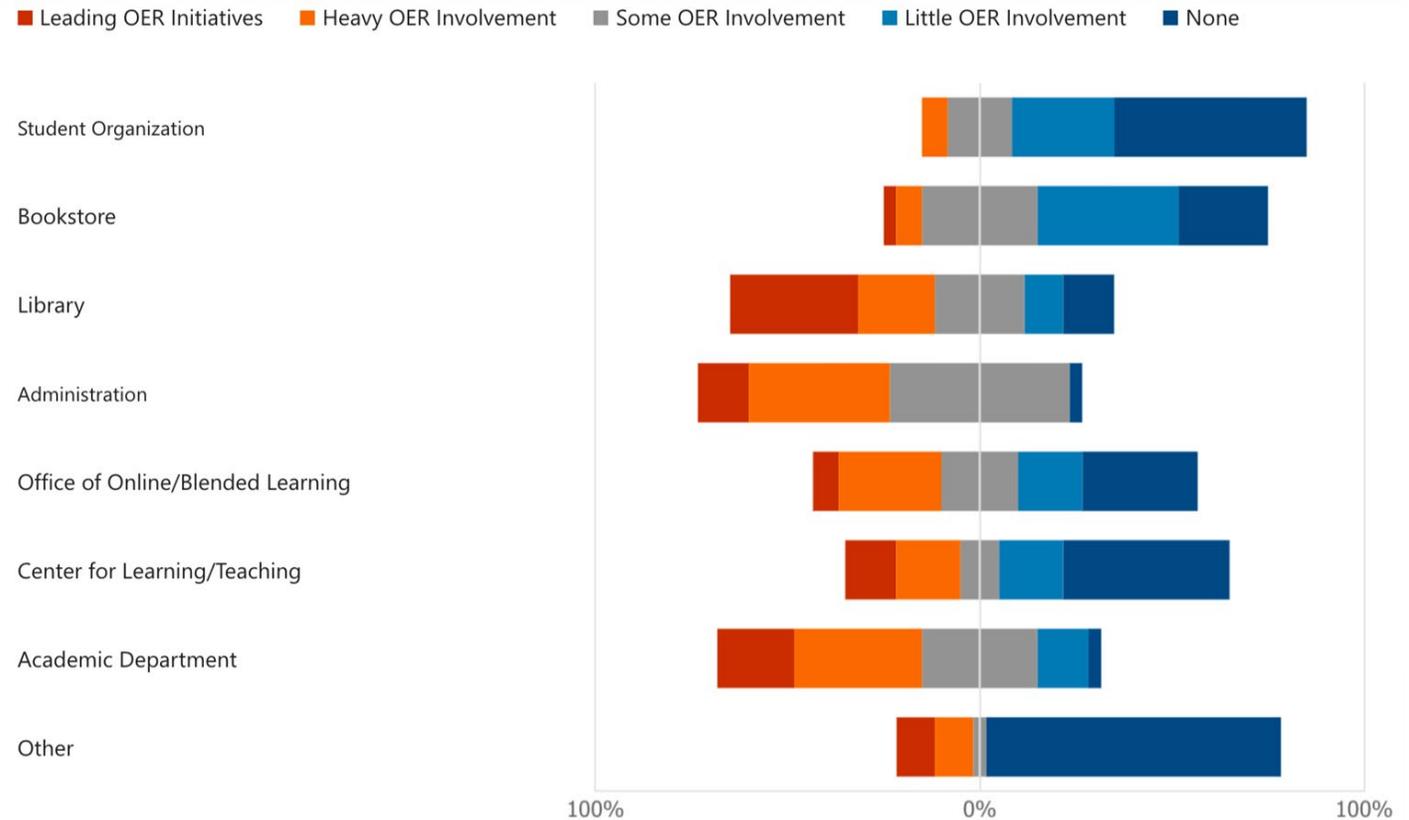
**Time, resources, and awareness continue to be challenges to OER adoption. Lack of funding remains the largest barrier.**



# Institutional Entities Coordinating OER

**Library, Academic Departments, and Administration** were the most highly ranked. The leadership at academic department levels is new.

Many respondents indicated English departments as leaders in OER.



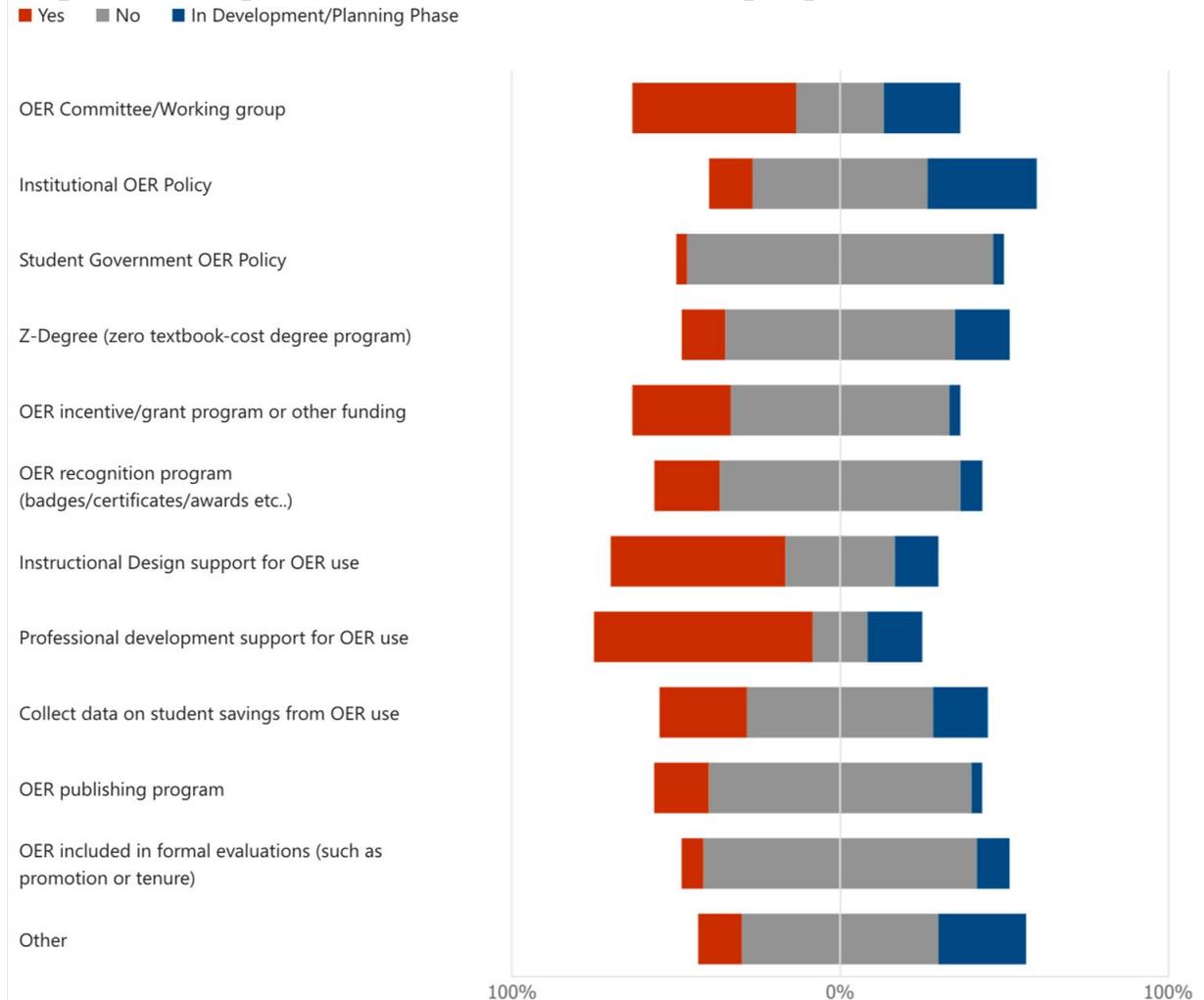
Respondents ranked the role of different institutional entities played in coordinating institutional OER initiatives



# Practices Currently in place to support OER

***OER Committee/Working Group, Instructional Design Support and Professional Development*** were the most commonly available.

Seven universities & 2 Community Colleges reported having ***OER incentive/grant programs***. Increase of one University since last survey.





# Reported Awareness of OER

**Library, Bookstore** and **Administrators** were reported to be more aware of OER than students & faculty.

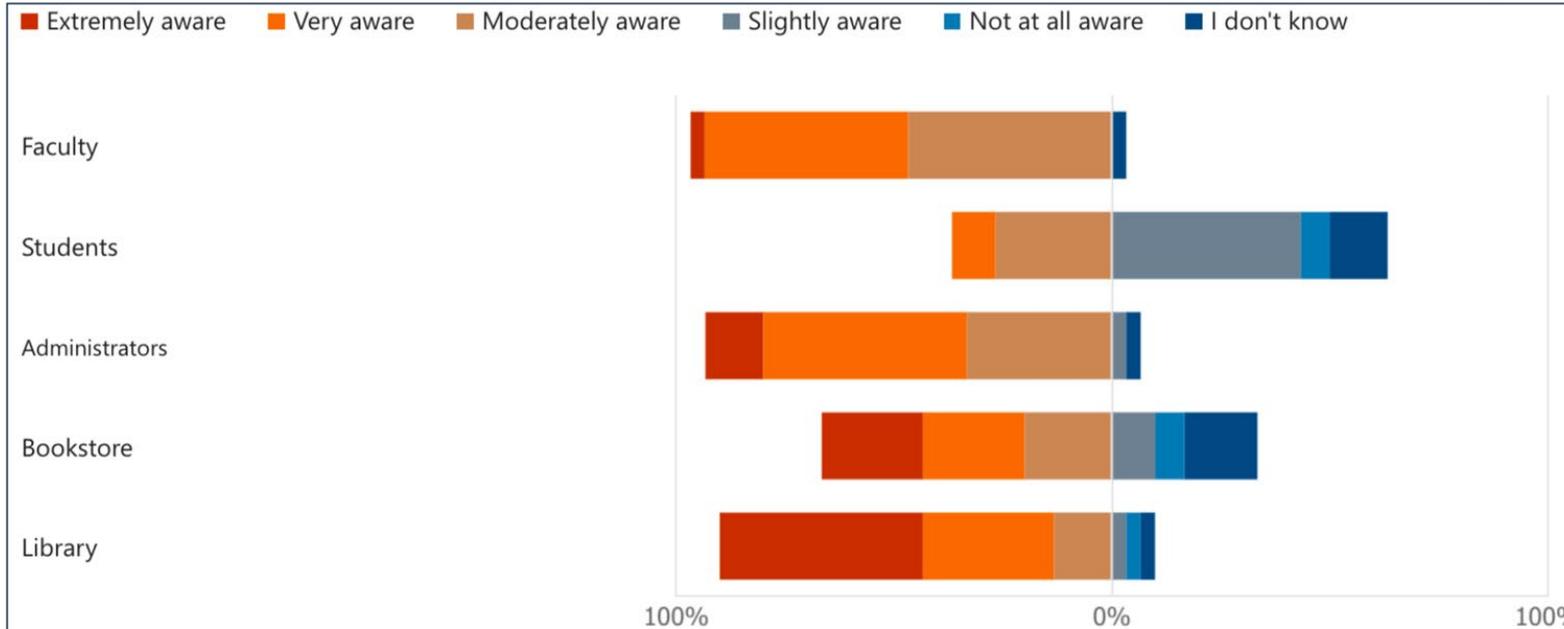
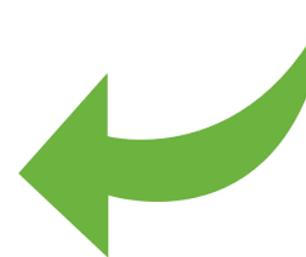


Table 1. Mean OER Awareness by institution types

Institution Types	Faculty	Students	Administrators	Bookstore	Library
Universities	2.4	1.6	2.3	2.6	3.8
Community Colleges	2.7	1.4	2.9	2.6	3.1
Technical Colleges	2.3	1.7	2.8	1.3	2.3

Calculated by assigning scores as follows for responses: 0 - Not aware at all, 1 - Slightly aware, 2 - Moderately aware, 3- Very Aware, 4 - Extremely aware, I don't know - no score assigned.

**Table 1** illustrates OER awareness broken out by different institution types.



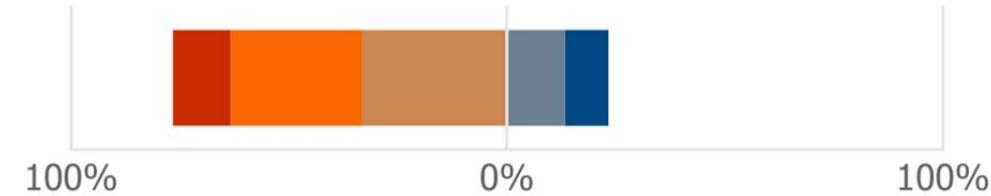


# OER Usage

*The percentage* of instructors at institutions utilizing OER as their primary course resource in **at least 1 course** is relatively low.

■ More than 10% ■ 6%-10% ■ 1%-5% ■ Less than 1% ■ None ■ I don't know

Number of faculty



# Course Marking

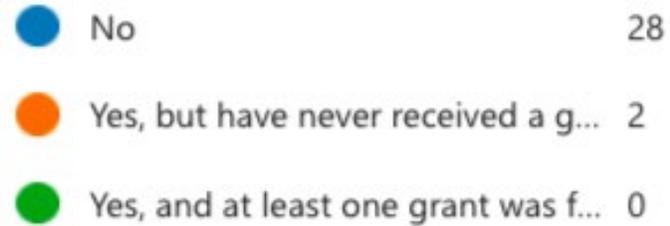
All seven Universities, Barton CC, and Butler CC have implemented OER/free/low-cost course marking in their course catalog, bookstore, search engine or landing page to help students in making course choices. This is an increase in one community college compared to last year.

Of remaining institutions, four community colleges are planning or developing course markers.



# Pursuing External Grants

*Only two colleges (one community, one university) have led pursuing OER-focused grants*



Emporia State and Johnson CC have both pursued grants (four in total), but are yet to receive one.

- This does not capture grants institutions may benefited from
- This does not capture grants that institutions that have partnered but not led
- Some reasons for not pursuing these:
  - Lack of resources to pursue these large scale grants
  - Grant providers targeting larger-scale partnerships than KS institutions can match



# Conclusion

- While results remain similar, we are seeing improvements in areas like faculty awareness, academic department leadership (particularly English), and growing optimism about the number of OER materials in classrooms
- These survey results continue to support our approach, activities, and strategies towards OER growth and development at Kansas institutions of higher education.
- Our new questions about grant applications indicate low participation in grant application, but demonstrate need for statewide funds to further OER initiatives

[To see the full OER report & survey questions please visit the KBOR OER Webpage](#)

