



OER Update & Systemwide Survey Results

Fall 2024

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



Open Educational Resources (OER)

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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.^{3, 4} 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.^{5,6}

*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 Previously Launched Initiatives

Fall 2020 - OER Webinar Series

February 2021 – Annual Survey

2021-2022 - OER Workshops and Faculty Training

February 2022 – 1st Kansas OER Virtual Summit

2022-2023- OER Roundtable Series

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

Fall 2023 - KBOR LibreTexts Subscription

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





OER Current Initiatives

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



2024 - New Subcommittees

Student Testimonials: Looking to collect feedback from students impacted by OER

Communications: No producing a newsletter

Action Plan/Rebranding: Communicating our mission more clearly



Open Up Learning
KANSAS



OER Survey

- Sent out March 2024 to the chief academic officers at each institution to gather 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.
- 32 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.

- Of respondents: 7 of 7 Universities, 11 of 19 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.

Of the institutions who responded, four have led applications for external grant awards

- Four institutions reported being a part of external OER-related grant applications (six total). Of those, only two were successfully funded.

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

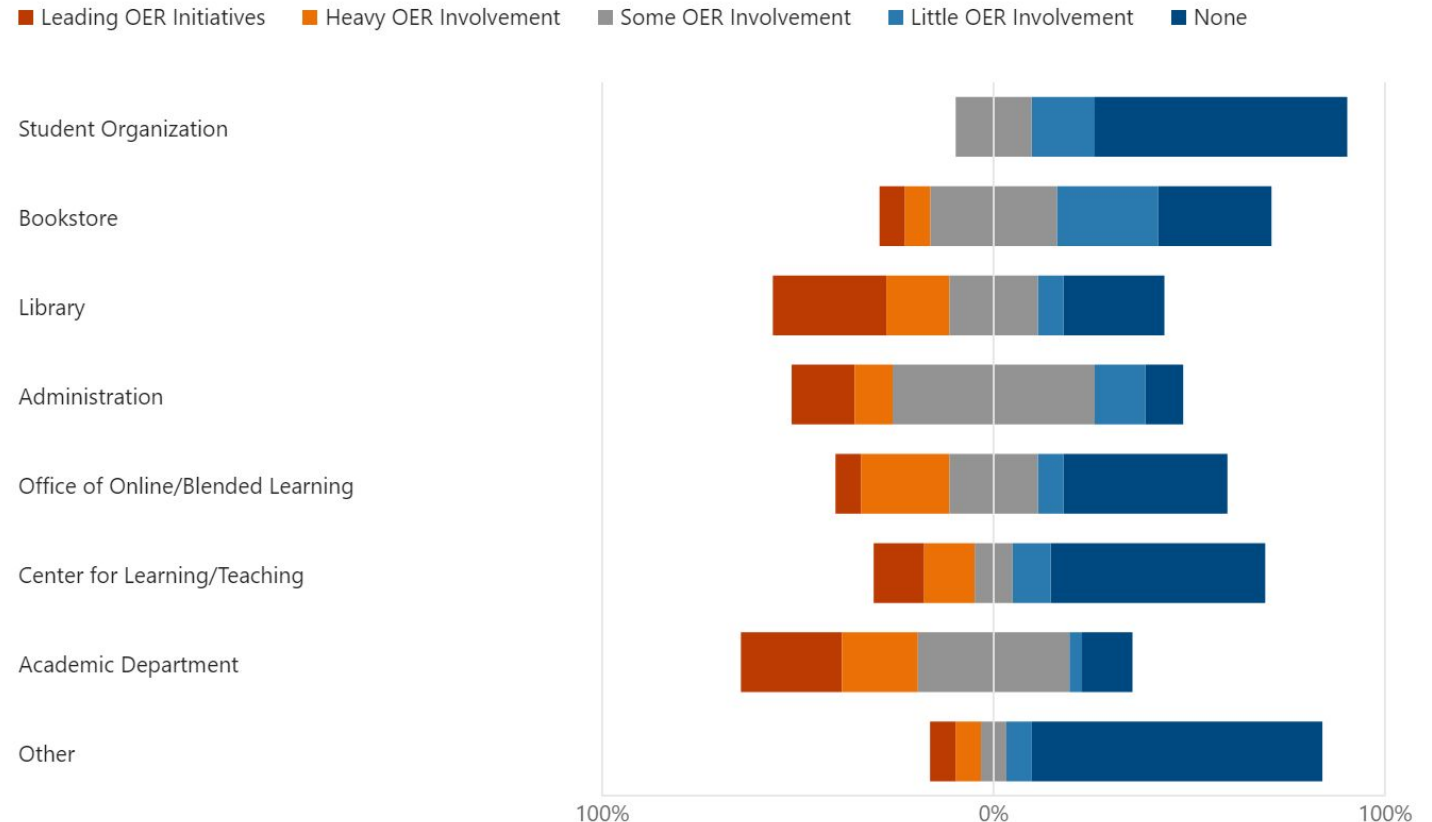
- External funding remains a challenge for Kansas institutions to be competitive, even as a consortia.



Institutional Entities Coordinating OER

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

Respondents cited myriad departments, including Business, Mathematics, Social Sciences, and others.



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

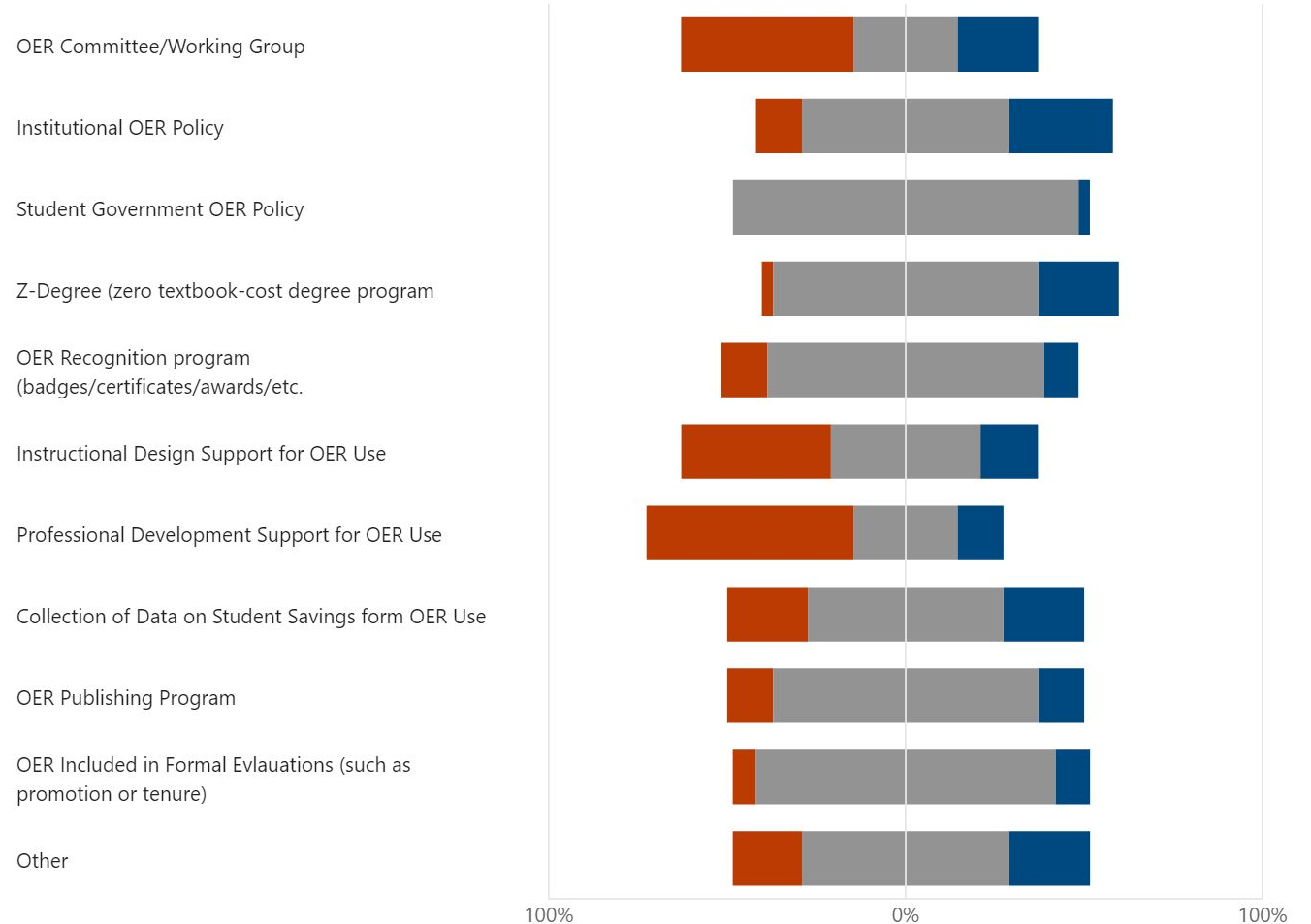


Practices Currently in place to support OER

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

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

■ Yes ■ No ■ In Development/Planning Phase





Reported Awareness of OER

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

Extremely Aware Very Aware Moderately Aware Slightly Aware Not At All Aware I Don't Know

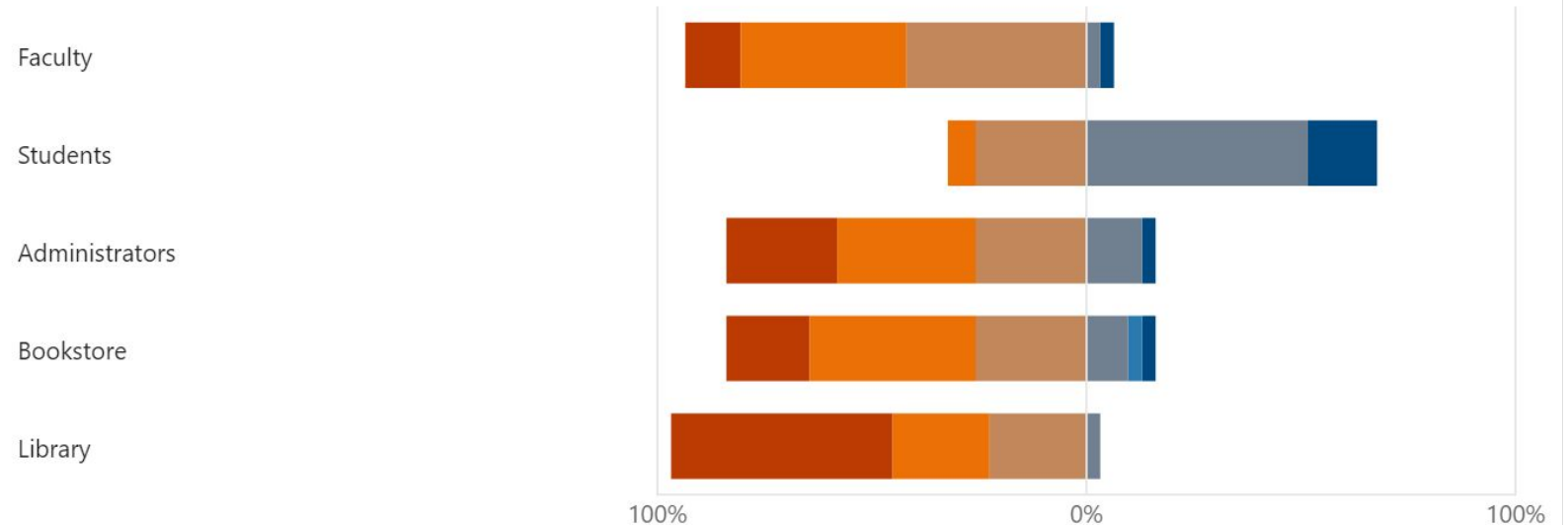


Table 1. Mean OER Awareness by institution types

Institution Types	Faculty	Students	Administrators	Bookstore	Library
Universities	2.3	1.5	2.4	2.9	3.9
Community Colleges	2.7	1.4	2.7	2.7	3.1
Technical Colleges	2.8	1.5	3	2.2	2.8

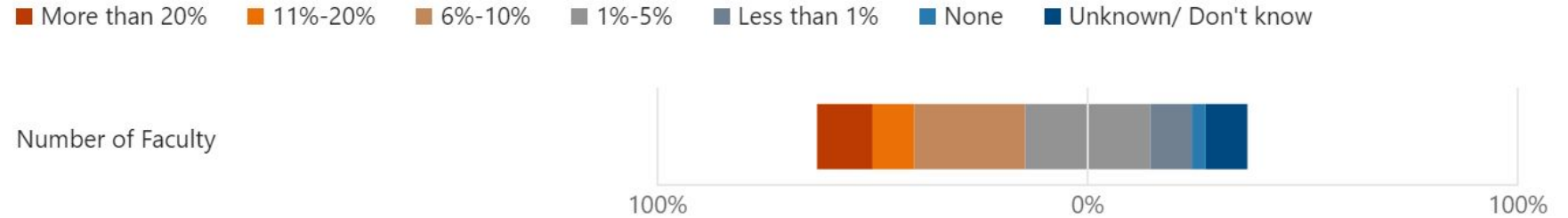
Calculated by assigning scores as follows for responses: 0 - Not aware at all, 1 - Slightly aware, 2 - Moderately aware, 3- Very Aware, 4 - Extremely aware, I don't know - no score assigned.

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

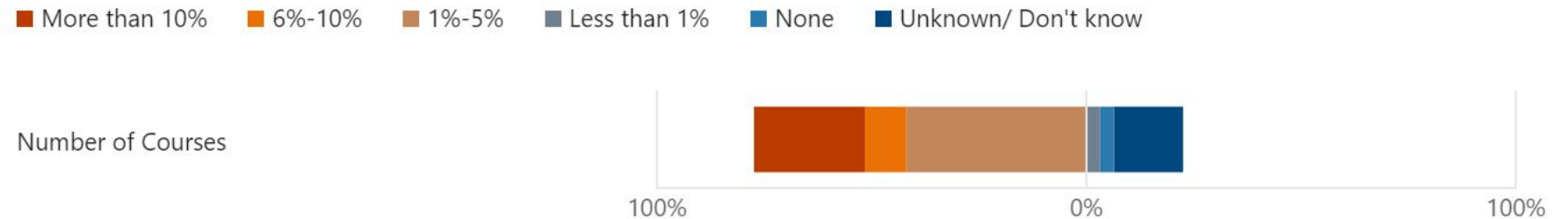


OER Usage

The percentage of instructors at institutions utilizing OER as their primary course resource in **at least 1 course** has grown since prior year.



The percentage of instructors at institutions utilizing OER in General Education/Kansas Systemwide Transfer Courses as their primary course resource.



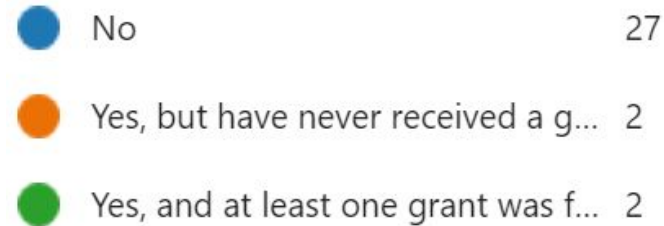
Course Marking

All seven universities, as well as Barton, Colby, and Butler Community Colleges, have implemented OER/free/low-cost course marking. Five institutions now indicate plans for course marking. In choosing the language for marking courses, most institutions chose an indicator of “zero cost.”



Pursuing External Grants

Two universities and two community colleges have pursued OER-focused grants



Four institutions have pursued a total of six external grants, with only two grants getting funded. Some challenges is receiving and pursuing external grants:

- Many grants award for large, multi-institution projects
- Lack of institution resources to pursue applying for these large-scale grants
- Grant providers targeting larger-scale partnerships than KS institutions can match



Survey Feedback from Institutions

- ESU - We have saved our students over \$400,000 dollars with the CRAIG grants... The new Digital Scholarship & OER Librarian position at ESU, that was filled in 2023, allows for more support and focus toward these OER initiatives as well.
- FHSU - After reviewing books recommended by the KBOR OER Systemwide Transfer Course Subject Matter Experts, a team of 6 math faculty is working to transition Elements of Statistics to OER. OERs authored through our Z-Course Grant Program are saving students \$175K annually.
- Colby Community College - The students prefer OER courses because of the cost savings, and instructors who use the OER format enjoy the flexibility and customization they can build into their courses.



Survey Feedback from Institutions

Support or services requested to help overcome OER challenges:

- Funding (most common)
- Recommendations on Grants
- Compensation to Faculty during adoption
- Promotion/awareness to faculty and students
- OER dedicated resource center
- Faculty collaboration



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
- Survey results continue to support our approach, activities, and strategies towards OER growth and development at Kansas institutions of higher education.
- Challenges with external funding opportunities continue to demonstrate need for statewide funds to further OER initiatives.

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

