OPEN ED UPDATES

KBOR Statewide OER Steering Committee Newsletter

Open Education Legislative Showcase

On February 22, 2024 representatives from 10 schools in the Kansas KBOR system participated in the second annual legislative showcase at the Capitol in Topeka.

The goal of this year's showcase was to educate lawmakers about the benefits of open educational resources and to support a budget request proposed through KBOR which seeks funding to create a staff position to oversee OER initiatives from the KBOR Academic Affairs office, purchase the LibreTexts platform subscription for all KBOR institutions, create a Kansas OER grant fund, and investigate a system wide OER usage and adoption reporting structure.

UPCOMING KS OER EVENTS

See recordings of recent events in the Kansas OER YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@kansasoer4803

Using OER in Communications Courses Webinar 2:30 pm Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Watch for upcoming webinars in Fall 2024:
- OER & A.I.
- OER Roundtable on Music & Performing Arts
- OER Basics Workshop

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LibreTexts Commons for the KBOR System

During the 2023-24 academic year, a LibreTexts commons was created for the KBOR system. The first members are already adopting and adapting OER textbooks. Kansas State University's Dr. Brian Lindshield says, "I have used LibreTexts as the platform for the OER I created since the Summer of 2020, and in the last couple of years I used it to remix an OER from other existing ones for another course. I have had a positive experience using the platform." His experience is not only positive from the instructor's side. Lindshield reports, "My students have positive feedback about the resources and LibreTexts."

Speak with your steering committee representative if you are interested in your institution joining the KBOR LibreTexts commons.

Visit the KBOR LibreTexts Commons: https://kbor.commons.libretexts.org/catalog

State & Regional OER Updates

A roundtable on using OER in education courses was held February 15, 2024 and can be accessed on the KBOR OER website.

Recorded webinars on general education system-wide transfer course OER recommendations are posted on the KBOR OER website for five system-wide transfer courses: College Algebra, Elementary Statistics, Public Speaking, English Composition I, and General Psychology.

LibreTexts training was held February 20, 2024; a recording is available on the KBOR OER website.

Join the Kansas OER Google Group to share events, seek assistance, or ask for recommendations: https://groups.google.com/g/kansas-oer.

Spotlight on System Schools

FSHU OER Mini-Conference on Improved Authoring Tools

FHSU held a virtual OER mini-conference in honor of Open Education Week, with sessions on AI-assisted open textbook authoring, using interactive H5P activities in the Pressbooks authoring platform, and departmental OER initiatives. Recordings are available at https://app.vidgrid.com/content/pROLbXLmeX3d.

KU Textbook Heroes

Shuai Sun, Assistant Teaching Professor of Chemistry at Kansas University, was recently named KU Libraries' Textbook Hero for the creation of the open access textbook _Breaking Barriers: Diversity and Equity in Chemistry_. Textbook Heroes are members of the KU community who've taken extraordinary initiative to increase access to and affordability of required course materials by implementing OER and other low and no cost course materials.