Flying Without a Text: Using Open Educational Resources, E-books, and LibGuides for Nursing Education

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Introduction

Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- Public domain materials free to use, copy, adapt, and re-use
- Early research indicates that students in courses that use OERs perform better than students in classes who must purchase textbooks

NYS SUNY OER Funding Initiative
- SUNY received $4 million (FY 2017-2018) from the state
- Faculty incentives to encourage the use of open educational resources (OERs) in lieu of required textbook purchases
- Providing awards to faculty who create new OERs or adopt existing OERs, in lieu of requiring student textbook purchases
- Help reduce the financial burden of public university students

NYS SUNY OER Funding Initiative
- SUNY Libraries administers and promotes the program for the university
- Graduate nursing faculty at Stony Brook University expressed an early interest
- Two DNP faculty meetings with nursing liaison librarian and the Associate Dean for Library Technology
- Discovery, and Digital Services (April 2018)

Methods

Pilot Collaboration
- Nursing librarian worked with faculty members from two programs:
  - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
  - Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP)
- Creation of “libraries” within the existing Nursing LibGuide
  - Dedicated page to required and recommended materials for program
  - Authenticated links to library resources
  - Links to OERs and other non-library resources (e.g., apps)
- “Library” URL could be embedded in Blackboard and be used on syllabus in lieu of book listing

Continued Collaboration
- Librarian introduced concept to all faculty at SON meeting (May 2018)
- Creation of LibGuide page on OERs for nursing
- Adaptation of SUNY Libraries’ OER guide
- Subsequent creation of “libraries” for Psychiatric/Mental Health NP, Family NP, and Midwifery programs, per faculty interest
- Meeting with undergraduate nursing faculty to discuss possible integration of OER material into curriculum
- Meetings laid the groundwork for the pilot collaboration

Results

- Graduate program faculty were mainly interested in selecting e-books that were available through the health sciences library as substitutes for existing textbooks
- Undergraduate faculty were more interested in retaining the core textbooks but supplementing them through the use of select OERs and some library materials
- Light usage of OER for Nursing Faculty page (86 pages April – September 2018)
- Initial reactions from faculty and students were favorable as determined by the librarian during instruction sessions and from nursing faculty

- 33.4% increase in Nursing LibGuide use over previous year
  - 11073 clicks in 2018 vs 8300 in 2017
- 4 of top most accessed tabs are program libraries
  - Pediatric = 3rd most used, DNP = 6th, Family = 9th, Psychiatric = 10th
- 6 of top most accessed resources are e-books from program libraries

Challenges

- Limited number of nursing OERs available
  - Most available OERs designed for undergraduate nursing courses
  - OER adoption by NP faculty has been minimal
- Literature Review for Education and Nursing Graduate Students (DNP)
  - Various government apps and websites (Psychiatric NP, Midwifery, Neonatal NP)
- Limited number of concurrent licenses for certain subscription titles
  - Turnaways a possibility for sizeable classes
  - Propose alternate titles or recommend extended time if there is a required activity/reading in one text

Conclusion

- Librarian expertise on OERs and library resources fosters collaboration that can help embed the librarian deeper within the curriculum.
- One or two departmental allies are needed to get the program started, but as word spreads other faculty will express interest
- Using research guides to provide links to library materials helps facilitate usage of these materials, making it more likely students will use them.
- More OERs and library materials equates to less student expense
- More OERs for nursing are needed before greater implementation can occur

References

1. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). What are Open Educational Resources (OERs)? http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/open-educational-resources/what-are-open-educational-resources/