OERs and Alt-Texts in Technical Services: How to Get the Job Done

Course-Adopted Texts at Joyner Library, East Carolina University

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What are Alt-Texts

- Course-adopted texts (CATs)
- Freely available
- Can be articles or books from library
- Can be open access

Examples of Alt-Texts

- Two places you can find open textbooks are at Oapen http://www.oapen.org/home and Open Textbook Library https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

- Some examples of ECU CATs:
  - *Bloodchild and Other Stories* by Octavia Butler
  - *Encyclopedia of Urban Legends* by Jan Brunvand
  - *Job Search Handbook for People with Disabilities* by Daniel Ryan

Classes Using CATs

- Lower level and upper level courses
- From anthropology to theatre
- Both on-campus and distance ed

Bookstore Cooperation

- Reluctant partners at first, but now willingly participate

- We ask them for "The List": spreadsheet with resource, author, edition, publication year, course, section, instructor

The List

- The raw list needs to be cleaned up
- It needs to be searched in Serials Solutions to see if we could have access to the titles
- Then it gets searched in Gobi to see what type of license we could buy for each title: we're primarily interested in unlimited license e-books

Buy-in from Faculty

- Send faculty emails
  - Ask if they'd be willing to let students use electronic version
  - Most say yes
  - A few say no
    - Royalties
    - Students should own book for future reference
    - Concerns about access
    - Absence of content in online that is included in print
    - Image Quality

Getting the Item

- We purchase the item like any other e-book
- Activate it in Serials Solutions
- Update the LibGuide: http://libguides.ecu.edu/coursetexts
- Catalog it so it's in our catalog

Projected Savings

- Track number of courses, sections, number of students and bookstore cost and library cost and you can come up with an estimated savings amount
- The library spent $6,141.77
- It saved approximately $241,876.66
- Involved 144 professors
- 235 class sections
- 167 titles in all, some of which were already held by ECU

Usage

- What types of usage are we seeing
  - User sessions
  - Number of pages viewed
  - Pages printed
  - Full title downloads

Title	Total Pages	Pages Viewed	Pages Copied	Pages Printed	User Sessions	Chapter / Range Downloads	Full Title Downloads
1812 : The Navy's War	522	18	1	0	7	0	1
Arab American Writing : Love Is Like Water and Other Stories : and Other Stories	164	1	0	0	1	0	0
Betrayals : Fort William Henry and the "Massacre"	263	27	0	0	1	0	1
Planning for Coastal Resilience : Best Practices for Calamitous Times	198	715	0	5	43	0	1
Pragmatism : A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking	211	55	0	0	4	0	1
The Dreamkeepers : Successful Teachers of African American Children (2)	256	618	1	7	28	0	4
The Elusive Quest for Growth : Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics	357	419	0	0	7	0	0
Waterman's Song	325	453	0	1	28	0	2
Choreography And The Specific Image	289	356	0	5	17	0	1
Critical Communication Pedagogy	211	6	0	0	1	0	0
GIS Tutorial for Health (5)	464	6,214	5	732	195	0	3
Musical Theatre Auditions and Casting : A performer's guide viewed from both sides of the audition table (1)	272	11	0	0	1	0	0
Networked Governance : The Future of Intergovernmental Management	361	2,677	0	286	166	0	15
Polyphonic Federalism : Toward the Protection of Fundamental Rights	250	2,911	19	1,402	187	0	9
Processes in Microbial Ecology	327	10	0	27	3	0	1
The Rhetoric of Pregnancy	198	585	1	59	35	0	0
This Time Is Different : Eight Centuries of Financial Folly	416	4	0	0	2	0	0
What Everyone Needs to Know : Cybersecurity and Cyberwar : What Everyone Needs to KnowRG	315	4	0	0	4	0	2

What We've Learned

- Editions matter
- Nothing with course access codes
- EBL concurrent license has worked
- Added publishers: JSTOR, ProjectMuse
- Least DRM possible
- Some always fall through the cracks and we have to pick them up later
- Remember to count repeating courses over multiple semesters when calculating cost savings

For the Future

- Would a 3 concurrent user license be ok for a small seminar class?
- Make LibGuide into something better
  - Database driven replacement

Reference:

Patrick L. Carr, James D. Cardin & Daniel L. Shouse (2016) Aligning Collections with Student Needs: East Carolina University's Project to Acquire and Promote Online Access to Course-Adopted Texts, Serials Review, 42:1, 1-9, DOI: 10.1080/00987913.2015.1128381