A Collaborative Project Utilizing Open Educational Resources to Explore Access to Literacy Assessment Resources

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Project

Open educational resources (OER) expand opportunities for scholars to disseminate and share knowledge of texts and digital materials for teaching and learning.

Our group collaborated on a project to explore free and openly licensed resources that can be utilized in undergraduate assessment courses.

We share in this roundtable presentation the initial findings of our exploratory grant project.

Open Educational Resources

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Initial Findings That We Address

- why we decided to explore OER for our classrooms,

- what we found when we navigated available databases,

- quality and scope of freely licensed materials and,

- value of access and content knowledge on literacy assessments as important for leveraging equity and access for our students and the larger global and digital community.

Literacy Assessment Component Explored

- complexities of educational assessments,

- formative and summative assessments,

- case study scenarios that develop high leverage practices like interpreting and analyzing student work,

- issues on reliability, validity, and bias in testing, and the

- use of tests and interpret test scores in a reasonable and meaningful manner.

Overview of What We Learned

We used the OER Commons and MERLOT databases and found that content in these areas were limited if not non-existent.

This gap is alarming if access to this vital knowledge on literacy assessments are not freely accessible for 21st century teachers who will be teaching tomorrow's children.

The future of digital access and high quality openly licensed educational resources needs to be explored and expanded.

This roundtable will allow our group to share what we have learned and our next steps in this collaborative project.

Find your Motivation

- Had not found textbooks that fully met the needs of our literacy assessment course

- Cognizant of textbook costs

- Wanted an opportunity to explore what was available open access, hoping to meet student financial and academic needs

Identify Specific Areas of Focus

Specifically, we hoped to find materials related to:

- The complexities of educational assessments
- Types of assessments such as formative and summative assessments
- Culturally responsive assessments
- Case study scenarios that develop high leverage practices such as interpreting and analyzing student work
- Topics on issues of reliability, validity, and bias in testing
- Use of tests and interpret test scores in a reasonable and meaningful manner

Set Goals

- What are you looking for?

- Are there specific materials you need most?

- What's your timeline?

- What will your output be?

Lay the Groundwork for Collaboration

- Connect as partners

- Create shared workspace

- Schedule time (realistically)

Divide & Conquer

- Divide by OER source (e.g.) MERLOT, OER Commons, CURRIKI, Open Textbook Library, Open STAX, and other open textbooks (if a fit for your project/comfort level searching)

- Search for results

- Share findings

Format of Shared Working Document

Topic	Resource Name	Link to Resource	Type (video, lesson plan, article, etc)	Where found?	Notes
Uses of tests.	Promoting Student Self-Assessment ReadWriteThink	http://www.oercommons.org/courses/strategy-guide-promoting-student-self-assessment/view	Lesson Plan	OER Commons	3/4 This plan is for the Grades 6-12 range.
Uses of tests.	Developing Sound Aligned Assessments & Rubrics	https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/68012	Lesson Plan Assessment Material (Formative/ Summative)	OER Commons	3/4 This has a downloadable file but I cannot access it.-
Sample formative assessments.	Pocket Assessment	https://oercommons.s3.amazonaws.com/media/courseware/relatedresource/file/F	List of Activities	OER Commons	3/12 Need to review downloadable file.

More Sample Findings

assessment	End of cycle reading & spelling assessment –1st grade	https://eleducation.org/resources/k-2-skills-block-end-of-cycle-assessments	video	MERLOT	About 4', comes with video transcript. "assessment with a small group, evaluates their responses, and confers with each student to set an individual goal" (LJ)
Writing Rubrics	Various rubrics and checklists	https://eleducation.org/search?q=writing%20rubrics	rubrics	MERLOT	In alignment with CCSS
Reading comprehension	Improve reading comprehension	https://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.htm?keywords=understand+children%27s+reading+comprehension&sort.property=relevance	Free amazon kindle	MERLOT	strategies

Results

Our search yielded very limited relevant learning materials

Quality resources were not as readily available as we thought

Limited materials we found did not fully address what we were looking for

Realized the need to create the content that we want to use ourselves.

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What We Have Learned

- Librarian partnership to curate databases saved us time and effort

- Scope of freely licensed materials in the field of literacy assessments is extremely narrow/uneven quality. Growth is needed

- Some invalid/unsafe links

- Advocacy for OER funding feels more urgent

Avoid pitfalls

Strong and candid working relationship allowed us to avoid:

- Mission creep
- Lowered standards
- Uncompensated additional labor

A "positive no" in service of our larger "yes"

- Potential for wider impact

- Plan to create own OERs

- Cultural change needed

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