



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 Initiatives Survey

- Sent out March 2024 to the Chief Academic Officers at each institution to gather baseline 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

- **Institutional Support:**
 - **Universities:** 7 of 7 have policies, programs, or committees in place.
 - **Community Colleges:** 10 of 15 are supporting OER.
 - **Technical Colleges:** 0 of 5 currently have such initiatives.
- **Future Plans:**
 - Only 5 institutions without support currently have no plans to develop one.
- **Grant Applications:**
 - 4 institutions have applied for external grants related to OER.
 - A total of 6 grant applications submitted; at least 2 successfully funded.
- **Challenges**
 - **Funding** remains the largest barrier to wider OER adoption
 - **Time, resources, and awareness** continue to be significant hurdles.
- **Progress:**
 - Data shows more widespread improvement/adoption compared to the previous year.

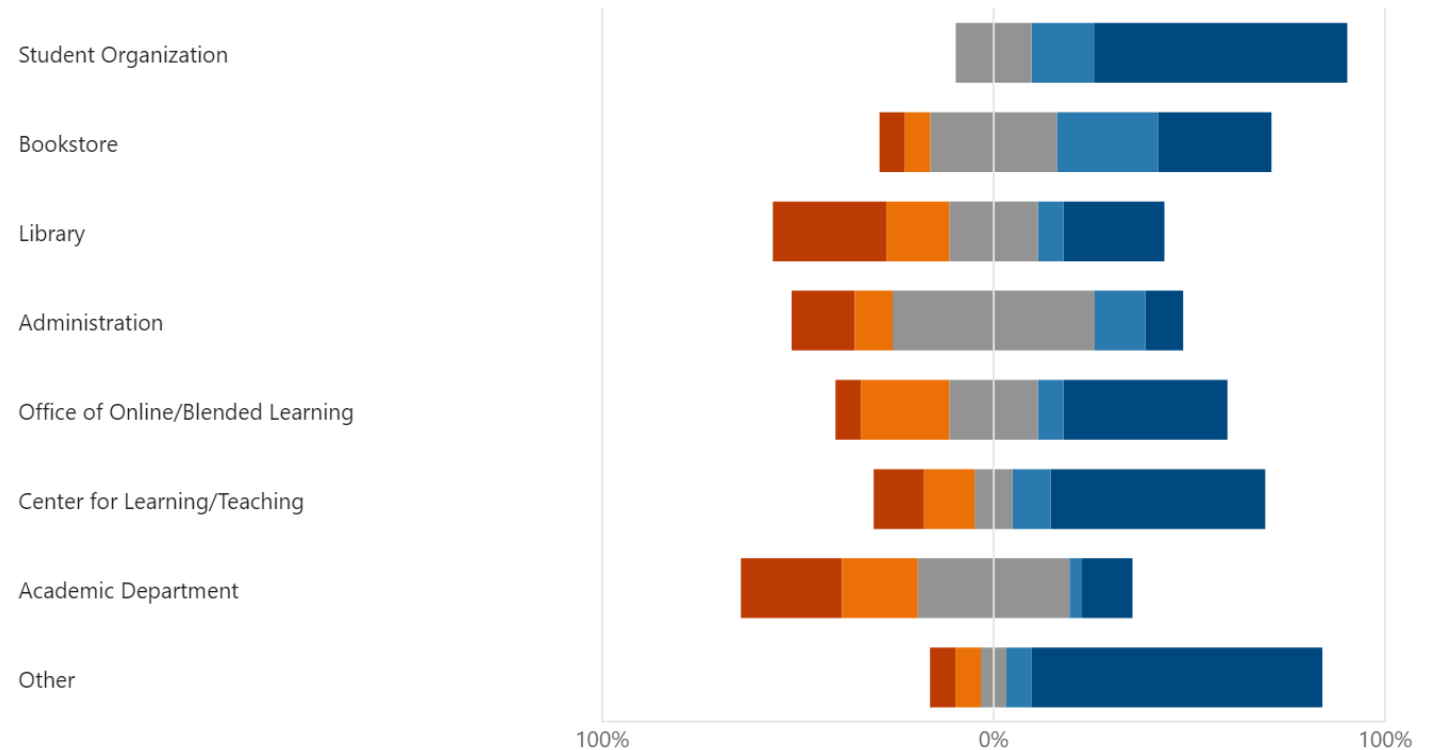


Institutional Entities Coordinating OER

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

Many respondents indicated English departments as leaders in OER.

Leading OER Initiatives Heavy OER Involvement Some OER Involvement Little OER Involvement None



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

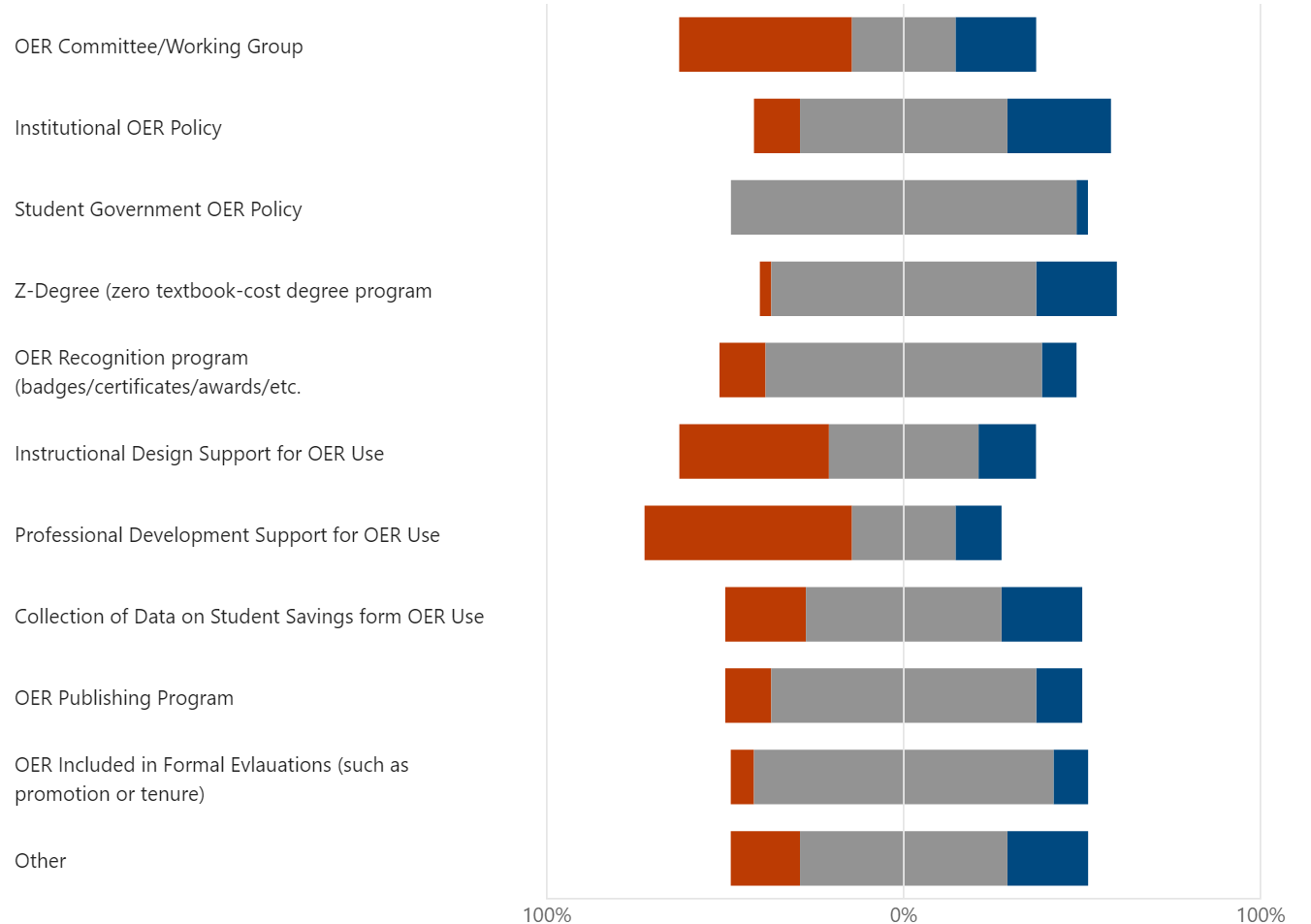


Practices Currently in place to support OER

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

Seven universities & 2 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

Faculty

Students

Administrators

Bookstore

Library

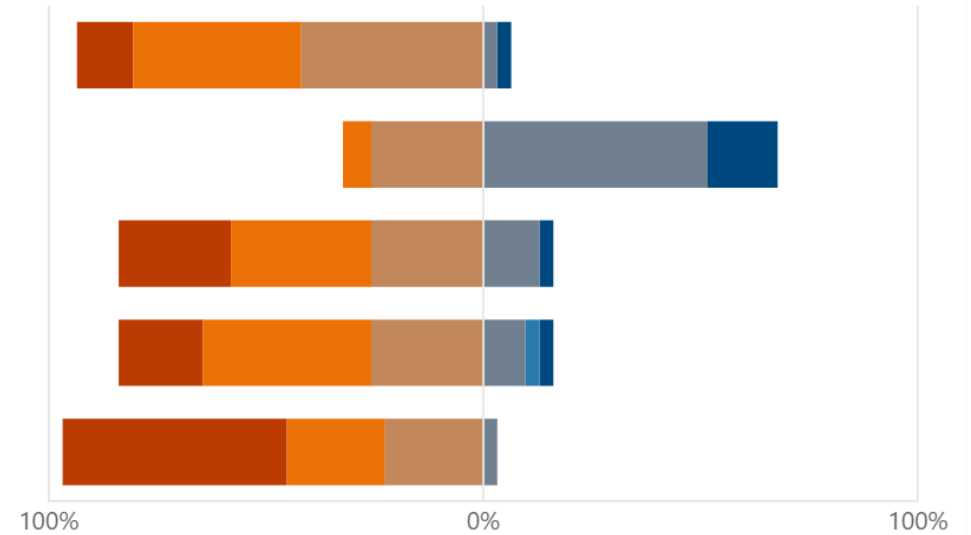


Table 1. Mean OER Awareness by institution types

Institution Types	Faculty	Students	Administrators	Bookstore	Library
Universities	2.4	1.6	2.3	2.6	3.8
Community Colleges	2.7	1.4	2.9	2.6	3.1
Technical Colleges	2.3	1.7	2.8	1.3	2.3

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.



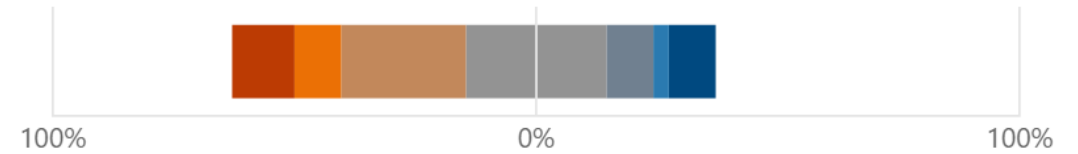


OER Usage

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

More than 20% 11%-20% 6%-10% 1%-5% Less than 1% None Unknown/ Don't know

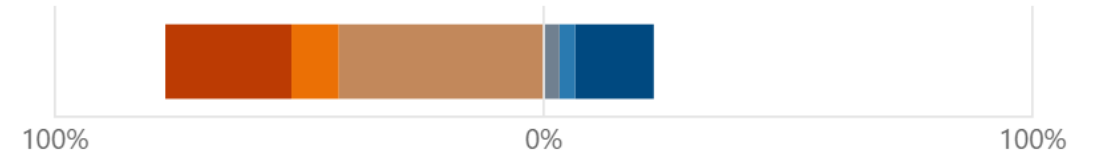
Number of Faculty



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

More than 10% 6%-10% 1%-5% Less than 1% None Unknown/ Don't know

Number of Courses



Course Marking

Nine implemented OER/free/low-cost course marking in their course catalog, bookstore, search engine, or landing page to help students make course choices. This is an increase of 5 compared to last year.

6 additional institutions are in the planning/development phase.



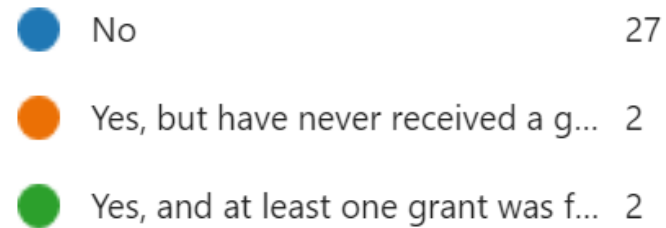


Pursuing External Grants

Two universities and two community colleges have led pursuing OER-focused grants

Barriers to pursuing external grants:

- Lack of funding
- Lack of staff/capacity
- Lack of time





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

- 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
- These survey results continue to support our approach, activities, and strategies towards OER growth and development at Kansas institutions of higher education.
- Our questions about grant applications indicate low participation in grant applications, but demonstrate need for statewide funds to further OER initiatives

