Exploring the Effects of Open Textbooks at TRU

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Faculty Survey

Completing this survey will take approximately 20 minutes.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore the effects of Open Textbook adoption in relation to student costs; learning outcomes; resource use; and faculty, administrator, and student perceptions of open and traditional resources.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. All questions in the online survey are optional and you may withdraw from the research study at any time by closing your browser. Clicking “Yes” below indicates that you have read and understood this form and consent to participate in this research. You should ask the principal investigator listed below any questions you may have about this research study. You may ask him questions in the future if you do not understand something that is being done. Consenting to participate in this research project does not waive your rights to legal recourse in the event of research related harm.

Principal Investigator

Colin Madland (M.Ed.), Thompson Rivers University

Risks

There are no known risks associated with participating in this research project.

Benefits

The study will help us build a picture of how instructors at TRU use open educational resources for learning and teaching. The research data will help educators around the world make more informed decisions about the adoption of open textbooks and other open educational resources and support increased adoption and adaptation of open resources to reduce student costs and improve learning outcomes.

Compensation

There is no compensation offered in exchange for your participation in this study.

Confidentiality

By answering the survey questions, you are granting the researcher use of your data for research and dissemination purposes. Although you are not asked to provide your name, in some cases your answers to a few demographic questions about your academic background and your role at TRU could indirectly identify you.

Please note, however, that you may choose not to answer these questions and that all of the questions in this survey are optional.

The results of this study may be presented at conferences and published in academic journals; however only group averages and trends will be reported. The raw data collected during this study will be stored securely (using password protected and encrypted data files) and accessible only to the researcher. Anonymized data will be made available under an open license to enable further analysis by other researchers.

At this time there is no plan to destroy the data as it may be used for future analyses, including investigations of changes over time in attitudes towards open textbooks and other open educational resources.

Our data protection policy complies with British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Contact Information

If you want to talk to anyone about this research study because you think you have not been treated fairly or think you have been hurt by joining the study, or if you have any other questions about the study, you should the principal investigator, Mr. Colin Madland, at 250-852-6810 or cmadland@tru.ca or the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at 250-828-5000 or tru-reb@tru.ca.

Informed Consent

Do you consent to having your responses included in this research project?

Yes No

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Demographics

Which course are you currently teaching?

Please choose one.

- Sociology 1111 (Open Learning)
- Sociology 1110 (Campus)
- History 1111 (Open Learning)
- History 1110 (Campus)
- Psychology 2111 (Open Learning)
- Psychology 21110 (Campus)

What is your highest educational qualification?

- High School Diploma
- Attended College
- Associates Degree (Two Year)
- Bachelors Degree
- Masters Degree
- PhD or Professional Doctorate

- [ ] No Formal Qualification
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

What kind of teaching do you do?

Please check all that apply.

- [ ] Full-time face-to-face teaching
- [ ] Part-time face-to-face teaching
- [ ] Full-time distance/online teaching
- [ ] Part-time distance/online teaching
- [ ] Full-time blended (face-to-face and distance/online) teaching
- [ ] Part-time blended (face-to-face and distance/online) teaching
- [ ] Work-based training
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

For how many years have you been teaching?

- [ ] Under 1 year
- [ ] 1 to 3 years
- [ ] 4 to 6 years

- 7 to 10 years
- Over 10 years

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Your use of Open Educational Resources (OER).

Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning or research materials that are in the public domain or released with an intellectual property license that allows for free use, adaptation, and distribution.

Open educational resources can be in many formats, including open textbooks, complete courses and small assets such as videos. Many free online resources are open educational resources.

In which of these ways, if any, have you used or created Open Educational Resources?

Please select all that apply.

- [ ] I have used open educational resources.
- [ ] I have adapted open educational resources to fit my needs.
- [ ] I have created open educational resources for study or teaching.
- [ ] I have created resources myself and published them on an open licence.
- [ ] I have added a resource to a repository.
- [ ] I have added comments to a repository regarding the quality of a resource.
- [ ] I have added comments to a repository suggesting ways of using a resource.
- [ ] I have not used or created open educational resources.
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

Which, if any, of the following types of open educational resources have you used for teaching/training?

Please select all that apply.

- [ ] Open textbooks
- [ ] Whole course
- [ ] Elements of a course (e.g. a module/unit)
- [ ] Videos
- [ ] Audio podcasts
- [ ] Images
- [ ] Infographics
- [ ] Interactive games
- [ ] Lectures
- [ ] Lesson plans
- [ ] Tutorials
- [ ] Quizzes
- [ ] Ebooks
- [ ] Data sets
- [ ] Learning tools, instruments and plugins
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

Have you used, or are you using, BCcampus Open Textbooks?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

If you are aware of BCcampus Open Textbooks, how did you learn about them?

Type here

If you have not used a BCcampus open textbook, which of the following reasons contributed to this decision?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ No textbook available for my discipline/course.
- ☐ Poor quality of open textbook.
- ☐ Lack of additional instructor resources (such as image gallery, test bank, or instructor manual).
- ☐ Lack of support from colleagues/Department to change textbook.
- ☐ Lack of time to transition to new textbook.
- ☐

Other, please specify...	Type here

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Your Experience with Open Education Resources

For which of the following purposes have you used open educational resources in the context of your teaching/training?

- [ ] To prepare for my teaching/training.
- [ ] To get new ideas and inspiration.
- [ ] To supplement my existing lessons or coursework.
- [ ] As "assets" (e.g. images or text extracts) within a classroom lesson.
- [ ] To give to learners as compulsory self-study materials.
- [ ] To give to learners as optional self-study materials.
- [ ] To provide e-learning materials to online learners.
- [ ] To compare them with my own teaching/training materials in order to assess the quality of my materials.
- [ ] To broaden the range of my teaching methods.
- [ ] To broaden the range of resources available to my learners.
- [ ] To make my teaching more culturally diverse [or responsive].
- [ ] To enhance my professional development.
- [ ] To stay up-to-date in a subject or topic area.
- [ ] To learn about a new topic.

- [ ] To engage my students more fully in a topic area.
- [ ] To connect with instructors or learners who have similar interests (e.g. by reading comments they have posted about resources).
- [ ] To interest hard-to-engage learners
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

In the context of your role as instructor, what has been your experience of using OER at your institution?

Type here

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Factors that influence using Open Educational Resources

Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using open educational resources?

Please select all that apply.

- [ ] Overcoming technology problems when downloading resources.
- [ ] Knowing where to find resources.
- [ ] Finding suitable resources in my subject area.
- [ ] Finding resources of sufficiently high quality.
- [ ] Finding resources that are up-to-date.
- [ ] Finding resources that are relevant to my local context.
- [ ] Getting work colleagues/managers to accept the use of open educational resources.
- [ ] Not being skilled enough to edit resources to suit my own context.
- [ ] Not knowing whether I have permission to use, change or modify resources.
- [ ] Not having enough time to look for suitable resources.
- [ ] Not having connections with open educational resource-using peers who could be a source of support.
- [ ] Missing/needing the support of a tutor or instructor to help me work through open course materials.

- [ ] Not knowing how to use the resources in the classroom.
- [ ] Not having enough time/opportunities to experiment with using open educational resources in the classroom.
- [ ] Lacking institutional support for my use of open educational resources.
- [ ] Resources not being aligned with professional standards or regulation.
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content?

Please select all that apply.

- [ ] Evidence of interest in that resource (e.g. lots of downloads).
- [ ] The resource being recently created, uploaded or updated.
- [ ] The resource being easy to download.
- [ ] A description of learning objectives or outcomes being provided.
- [ ] The resource being created/uploaded by a reputable/trusted institution or person.
- [ ] The resource having a Creative Commons license.
- [ ] The resource having an open license allowing adaptation.
- [ ] The length/complexity of the resource.
- [ ] Use of interactive or multi-media content (e.g. video or quiz) in the resource.
- [ ] Positive user ratings or comments about the resource.

- [ ] Personal recommendation.
- [ ] Having previously used this resource successfully.
- [ ] The resource being relevant to my particular interests/needs.
- [ ] The resource having a catchy title or attractive image(s).
- [ ] Being required to use a resource for a project or study task.
- [ ] The resource having previously been used with students.
- [ ] A detailed description of the resource content being provided.
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

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Teaching with Open Educational Resources

Based on your experiences as a instructor, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Increases learners' participation in class discussions	○	○	○	○	○
Increases learners' interest in the subjects taught	○	○	○	○	○
Increases learners' satisfaction with the learning experience	○	○	○	○	○
Leads to improved students' grades	○	○	○	○	○
Builds learners' confidence	○	○	○	○	○
Develops learners' increased independence and self-reliance	○	○	○	○	○
Allows me to better accommodate diverse learners' needs	○	○	○	○	○
Increases learners' engagement with lesson content	○	○	○	○	○
Increases learners' experimentation with new	○	○	○	○	○

ways of learning	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Increases collaboration and/or peer-support among learners	○	○	○	○	○
Increases learners' enthusiasm for future study	○	○	○	○	○
Leads to learners becoming interested in a wider range of subjects than before they used OER	○	○	○	○	○

Please provide evidence, or tell us more about any experience, which supports your responses to the previous question's statements.

Type here

Based on your experiences as an instructor, how would you rate the quality of OER when compared with traditional, proprietary materials?

"The quality of OER when compared with traditional, proprietary materials is usually..."

- ○ Much Better
- ○ Somewhat Better

- About the Same
- Somewhat Worse
- Much Worse

Please provide evidence, or tell us more about any experience, which supports your responses to the previous question's statements.

Type here

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The Impact of Using Open Educational Resources

Do you believe that your students have saved money by using open educational resources?

Yes No

Do you think that your institution benefits financially by using open educational resources?

Yes No

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact on your teaching practice of your using open educational resources?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have broadened my coverage of the curriculum					
I use a broader range of teaching and learning methods					
I have improved information and communication technology skills					
I make use of a wider range of multimedia					
I make more use of					

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I make more use of culturally diverse resources					
I have a more up-to-date knowledge of my subject area					
I reflect more on the way that I teach					
I more frequently compare my own teaching with others					
I now use OER study to develop my teaching					
I collaborate more with colleagues					

Please provide evidence, or tell us more about any experience, which supports your responses to the previous question's statements.

Type here

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Institutional Policies Concerning Open Educational Resources

What kinds of practices and policies, if any, does your institution have in relation to open educational resources?

Type here

Are you aware of any changes to policy and/or practice that have taken place at your institution as a result of participation in OER pilots and/or programs?

Yes No

In the context of your role as instructor, what kinds of policies would help you to be more open?

Type here

In the context of your role as instructor, what barriers, if any, have you encountered when using OER in your institution?

Type here

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Open Licensing

"A license is a document that specifies what can and cannot be done with a work (whether sound, text, image or multimedia). It grants permissions and states restrictions. Broadly speaking, an open license is one which grants permission to access, reuse and redistribute a work with few or no restrictions."

Open Definition (http://opendefinition.org/guide/)

Do you recognise the logo above?

- I've never seen it
- I've seen it but I don't know what it means
- I've seen it and I know what it means

How important is open licensing to you when using resources in your teaching?

- Very important
- Important

- Moderately important
- Of little importance
- Unimportant

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Openness

What does "openness" in education mean to you?

Type here

Do you share any of your teaching materials publicly?

- No, but I share them with colleagues or others when asked.
- No, I don’t share any of my teaching materials with anyone but students.
- Yes, they are publicly viewable and I put a license on them that allows them to be revised and reused.
- Yes, they are publicly viewable but I don’t have a license on them that allows them to be revised and reused.
- Other, please specify... Type here

Please explain the reasons behind your answer to the previous question: Why do you share your teaching materials publicly (or not), and why do you/do you not allow them to be revised an reused?

Type here

Are there any institutional or policy barriers that affect your decision whether and how to share your teaching materials publicly? If so, please explain.

Type here

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About Your Use of Computers and the Internet

In which of these ways, if any, have you accessed the Internet during the past three months?

- [ ] Via an Internet-enabled mobile phone (smartphone)
- [ ] Via a tablet computer or iPad
- [ ] At home using a broadband connection
- [ ] At home using a dial-up connection
- [ ] Via a video game console
- [ ] At work
- [ ] At an educational institution
- [ ] At a community facility (e.g. a library)
- [ ] Via a commercial facility (e.g. cyber cafe)
- [ ] Other, please specify... Type here

Which of these things have you done in the last year?

- [ ] Sent an email
- [ ] Written a document using word processing software (e.g. Word)

- [ ] Used presentation software (e.g. Powerpoint)
- [ ] Performed calculations with spreadsheet software (e.g. Excel)
- [ ] Contributed to a Wiki (e.g. Wikipedia)
- [ ] Published a blog post (e.g. Wordpress, Blogger)
- [ ] Shared an image online (e.g. Flickr, Instagram, Pinterest)
- [ ] Posted on a microblogging platform (e.g. Twitter, Tumblr)
- [ ] Took part in a videochat (e.g. Skype)
- [ ] Contributed to an Internet forum
- [ ] Contributed to a social network (e.g. Facebook, Google+, MySpace, Beebo)
- [ ] Used cloud-based storage (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive)
- [ ] Shopped Online (e.g. eBay, Amazon)
- [ ] Downloaded a Podcast (e.g. iTunes)
- [ ] Downloaded a file using a torrent client (e.g. Bittorrent, UTorrent)
- [ ] Filmed and uploaded video content
- [ ] Used a learning management system to study or teach (e.g. Moodle, Blackboard)
- [ ] Recorded and uploaded a podcast

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A Little More About You

Here are a number of personality traits that may or may not apply to you. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. You should rate the extent to which the pair of traits applies to you, even if one characteristic applies more strongly than the other.

I see myself as

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree a Little	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree a Little	Agree Moderately	Agree Strongly
Extroverted, enthusiastic.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critical, quarrelsome.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dependable, self-disciplined.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Anxious, easily upset.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Open to new experiences, complex.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reserved, quiet.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sympathetic, warm.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disorganized, careless.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Calm							

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree a Little	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree a Little	Agree Moderately	Agree Strongly
Calm, emotionally stable.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Conventional, un-creative.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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Follow-Up

The researcher might wish to contact you with a view to collecting more detailed data through, for instance, a focus group or interview. If you are happy to be contacted then please click here to submit your name and email address.

This survey is not connected to the main survey and your responses will remain anonymous.