

- OEP Digest Australasian Edition - September 2019 Edition

WELCOME to all our new members!

The SIG is preparing for the ASCILITE Annual Webinar on scaling online education – you can find the details here – and the presence at ASCILITE 2019. More details on the conference will be available in the coming month, and you can participate through our monthly meetings.

This month's digest includes a range of learning opportunities, good news for open textbooks, and new research.

Do you have resources of interest to the community? Submit them via Adrian.stagg@usq.edu.au for inclusion in the Digest.

POWER OF THE NETWORK

CONNECTING GLOBALLY: The [Global Open Graduate Network](#) (GO-GN) is facilitated through the Open University (UK) and funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. As a network for higher-degree research students, and supervisors in open education, they offer webinars and opportunities to connect with other researchers and practitioners. In the coming months, GOGN will host a number of webinars that will also appear on [their channel](#). The [forthcoming webinars](#) will cover MOOCs and Openness, and a live session from the ICDE Conference. *(From Twitter)*

STARTING AN OPEN TEXTBOOK PROJECT: The [REBUS Community Office Hours](#) series focused on Open Textbook Projects in September, and the recording will be available soon. Their sessions are very practical and highly recommended; do check out the back catalogue of sessions. *(From Twitter)*

NEW RESEARCH

OPEN TEXTBOOKS AND LEARNING PERFORMANCE: In a study published ten days ago, Clinton and Khan conducted a meta-analysis of the findings of post-secondary student learning performance studies. The Cliffs Notes version is that there were 'no differences in learning efficacy between open textbooks and commercial textbooks', but [you should read the entire article here](#). Whilst Australia doesn't have the breadth of studies to replicate this, the research designs in the included studies could prove useful for emerging open textbook researchers. *(From Twitter)*

NEWS

KNOWLEDGE UNLATCHED: Recent changes to the Knowledge Unlatched business model have prompted coverage from the [London School of Economics](#), and [Open Book Publishers](#). *(From Stephanie Forbes, UNE)*

OPEN TEXT 'AUSTRALIAN POLITICS AND POLICY': Sydney University Press has announced the soft launch of their open text, authored by over 60 academic staff, and includes forty chapters that can be organised and republished as custom texts. Read more about this excellent initiative [here](#). (From Carmel O'Sullivan, USQ)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

From the OER Digest From Kaitlyn Vitez, Cailyn Nagle, and Andrew Husson (USPIRG) | Volume 90 | September 19th, 2019; With updates from Lana Hall, Erin Fields, and Susan Higgins.

OPENSTAX MILESTONE: The open publisher has reached a new milestone: they estimate that nearly 3 million students will use an OpenStax book this school year. [In the coming year](#), students are expected to save a quarter of a billion dollars, with 90% of them accessing the materials digitally for free. "Until a few years ago the college textbook bubble had seen sustained growth — textbook prices had risen 800% over 50 years," said Mark Perry, a scholar at The American Enterprise Institute and professor of economics and finance at the University of Michigan. "In 2017, there was a market-wide drop in textbook prices, and I believe that free alternatives like OpenStax books are central to that disruption."

NEW RESEARCH: A new report titled "A Place for Policy: The Role of Policy in Supporting Open Educational Resources and Practices at Ontario's Colleges and Universities" examines the benefits, barriers, and OER policies in North America. [The report](#) lays out the benefits of using a policy model and how policies directly answer the barriers to implementing and expanding open educational materials and practices.

BIG OER INVESTMENT: University of British Columbia launched a new [OER Fund](#) with a commitment from their Office of the Provost of \$250,000 for the four years of the program. The funds will be used to create two grant pathways, a smaller grant for innovative activities and a larger grant for incorporating OER as required materials in credit courses. The program is prioritizing large freshman and sophomore classes as well as multi section courses and the creation of quiz and test banks.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Amigos Library Services online conference on December 4th is accepting proposals now until Sept 25th on the subject of "the Library's role of supporting open educational resources." Learn more and submit your proposal [here](#).

REGISTER NOW: The Open Education Consortium is hosting a webinar on Open Education Leadership October 1st covering the broad work they are doing internationally. Learn more and register [here](#).