

AUSTRALASIAN OEP SIG DIGEST 2020 SEPTEMBER EDITION

[Curated by Nikki Andersen, Adrian Stagg, members of the Australasian OEP-SIG, and selected content from SPARC's OEP Digest]

Australasian news

NATIONAL SCOPING STUDY: (from Sarah Lambert and Habiba Fadel): Deakin University are seeking expressions of interest from Australian universities to participate in a national scoping study focused on open textbooks. More information can be found on their [website](#).

OPEN TEXTBOOK INITIATIVES UPDATES FROM RMIT: (from Frank Ponte).

- The student savings bank established on the [Open Textbook Initiative](#) continues to grow as more academic staff adopt open texts. Now at over \$255,000 saved.
- New featured textbooks include two publications from University of Southern Queensland. *Wellbeing in Educational Contexts* and *Opening Eyes onto Inclusion and Diversity*. Read the [abstracts](#).
- RMIT has over 600 [open educational resources](#) available under varying licences.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARY have created a terrific [platform](#) offering options for sourcing open access resources.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND has created new [referencing guides](#) using Pressbooks .

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY have begun their trial of Pressbooks. Read more about this on their [website](#).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA have developed a strategy to increase knowledge and awareness of OER across their staff whilst building support within the University.

Affiliated groups

OER POLICY AND REFORM DISCUSSION FORUM: An OER policy and reform discussion was held with attendees from several institutions across Australia. Steven Chang has kindly shared the [collective notes](#) from that meeting.

OPENED CONFERENCE COMMUNITY MEETING: Here is the [recording](#) of the OpenEd Conference Community Meeting from June 26, 2020. This meeting was an opportunity to discuss OpenEd conference planning with the Steering Committee, organisers, and broader community.

International news

OPENSTAX MILESTONE: OpenStax has [officially surpassed \\$1 billion in student savings](#) since publishing their first open textbook in 2012. In just under a decade of operation, OpenStax has had a massive impact on teaching and learning, serving over 14 million students worldwide. They've also just announced that they have [plans to double their library](#) of open textbooks with \$12.5 million in grant support from various national foundations, marking the largest investment in OER to date.

OER PROJECT PARTNERSHIP: The Nevada Department of Education [announced](#) the [OER Project's](#) collaboration with the state on two new history courses. The Big History Project focuses on foundational skills and concepts for students to help prepare them for high school-level work, while the World History Project focuses on preparing students for Advanced Placement coursework. The courses will allow teachers to adapt lesson plans and materials to the needs of their middle and high school students.

COLLABORATION IN BC: Science and geography faculty from post-secondary institutions in British Columbia [collaborated on developing](#) an open resource that will be introduced this fall. In three months, they developed a 22-assignment lab manual for students in first year geography courses. The project was conceptualised as a result of the sudden shift to online learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FROM CALIFORNIA: Humboldt State University (HSU) received a \$15,000 grant to support their OER program. The grant will facilitate adoption and OER research while also supporting faculty and lecturer training. HSU's OER program has already saved students \$1 million in textbooks and over \$1.3 million in various course materials. *"Open Educational Resources, in addition to the HSU Library's textbook rental program, helps students get the educational materials they need to succeed as well as their basic needs to thrive,"* said Kyle Morgan, scholarly communications librarian. [Read more >>](#)

FROM PENNSYLVANIA: Penn State University's OPEN.ED, a website hosting high-quality learning materials, saw a surge of interest in March as a result of the switch to remote learning. The website was created through Penn State's OER initiative launched in 2007, and now offers more than 80 courses spanning over 1,715 topics. *"We've always had great content, and we wanted to create a system that allows users from around the world to easily search and access that content,"* said Jennifer Babb, a learning designer in the Dutton Institute who worked on the website. [Read more >>](#)

Articles

SHARING INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE ONLINE: AN OVERVIEW OF GLAM POLICIES by Creative Commons: An important [article](#) on Indigenous cultural heritage and open GLAM.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO DECOLONISE THE COMMONS? AN INTERVIEW WITH JANE ANDERSON OF LOCAL CONTEXTS by [Jennie Rose Halperin](#). Professor and legal scholar [Jane Anderson](#) presented the collaborative project ["Local Contexts,"](#) *"an initiative to support Native, First Nations, Aboriginal, Inuit, Metis and Indigenous communities in the*

management of their intellectual property and cultural heritage specifically within the digital environment." The wide-ranging panel touched on the need for practical strategies for Indigenous communities to reclaim their rights and assert sovereignty over their own intellectual property. Please take a read of the [article](#).

THE CASE FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION by Stacy Katz (shared by Jane Angel). The increasingly high cost of textbooks coupled with the pedagogical opportunities presented by Creative Commons licenses has provided fertile ground for the development of Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives as an impactful practice for improving student success. Librarians are leading advocates for OER, yet little is published on how librarians learn about OER or how faculty use OER in Library and Information Science (LIS) programs. In this study, Stacy surveyed LIS faculty about their awareness and usage of OER as well as the role they imagine for future librarians in open education. Read the [full article](#).

Conferences

REGISTER NOW FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE: The 2020 Open Education Global Conference (November 16-20) has opened [registration](#).

Webinars

RECORDING: OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIP IN LAW: THE STATE OF PLAY: Steven Chang and Dr Thomas Shafee from La Trobe University Library delivered a [presentation](#) on open educational resources and practices in law and legal studies.

RECORDING: SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSIVE DESIGN AND OPEN EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES SEMINAR: The [seminar](#), which was chaired by Matt Brett (Director, Academic Governance and Standards at Deakin University) features a presentation by Anne Lennox (Associate Director, Library Services Teaching and Research at RMIT), and a subsequent discussion on the need for policy adjustments and equity initiatives to address local and international digital divides.

RECORDING: OPEN AND FAIR DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH: TOWARDS A NATIONAL APPROACH: In this session, CAUL shared their activities under the CAUL Advancing Open Scholarship Program, which aims to progress a coordinated approach to open scholarship in Australia. The slides and recording are available on their [website](#).

Do you have a news story to share? Email Adrian.stagg@usq.edu.au with the details and we'll ensure you're credited in the Digest.