Spotlight on Open Educational Resources

Research shows that the cost of educational materials can significantly impact students’ ability to pay for college. To address this problem, University Libraries took an opportunity to promote awareness of the Benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER): OER are free or low-cost course materials that are openly licensed for anyone to share, save, or update. Adopting OER is shown to reduce student withdrawal rates in courses, as high textbook costs discourage students from purchasing the textbooks they need. To promote greater awareness and adoption of OER and promote textbook affordability at ISU, the library formed the Open and Affordable Educational Resources (OAER) committee, which incorporates university librarians and members of the Idaho State Board of Education (ISBOE), the Idaho Office of Education (JOED), and the Joint Task Force on Textbook Affordability. One of the OAER committee’s first actions was establishing the Textbook Hero awards to recognize ISU faculty who have worked to make course materials more affordable for students.

In addition, the committee planned and hosted the ISU Open Education Week event in March 2021, a week of virtual programming to raise awareness of OER and promote textbook affordability at ISU. To promote greater awareness and adoption of OER, the committee worked with campus partners, including the ISU Office of Information Technology (ITRC), and the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) to establish the Textbook Hero awards. The honor will continue annually to recognize ISU faculty, administrators, and staff who work to improve or bring awareness to the impact of high-cost course materials on ISU students. Fall 2020 Textbook Hero honorees were awarded to faculty members in the Buildings and Grounds, Chemistry, Library, Psychology, Special Collections, and other departments.

The OAER committee plans further initiatives to come, including promoting the new Pressbooks ebook publishing platform acquired by the Idaho SBOE for all Idaho public universities, and hosting a future Open Education Network workshop.

Library Resources

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Library Resources

Idaho State University Libraries has a variety of videos available on its YouTube page. There are several playlists, comprised of both library resources and open educational resources, intended to offer information and guidance in university library, academic, and community settings, which will allow viewers to get to know more about the library’s spaces and services available to students.

Some of the topics highlighted by University Libraries include:

- Learning to Research
- ISU Library Basics
- Citation Tools
- Open Education Week
- LibGuides: Library...
- Evidence Based Public Health
- Sciences Research
- LIR 122: Introduction to Information Research

www.youtube.com/c/ISULibraries

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University Libraries

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Between the Lines

University Libraries  | Summer 2021

Keeping Students First

The Maltese Bengal: An Oboler Noir Mystery

Thankful Bengal

Guesstimation Challenge

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The Maltese Bengal: An Oboler Noir Mystery

Thankful Bengal

Guesstimation Challenge

A jar of candy corn and candy pumpkins was placed at the Circulation desk for students to guess the number of pieces in the container. University Libraries shared aphorisms of the joke on social media platforms to ask what the ISU community was grateful for. Those who posted a publicly visible comment entered into a raffle for a gift card.

The Maltese Bengal: An Oboler Noir Mystery

The Maltese Bengal is a self-carved pumpkin hunt held during the Fall 2020 Welcome Week. This game could be played individually or in a small group and could be started and stopped at any point during the week. All floors of the library were utilized during the event, playing students in a mini-tour of the building. University Libraries awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.
While Buildings Were Closed to the Public (March to June 2020)
- Remote work from home
- Suspended all fees and fines until Fall 2020
- Extended due dates for all materials until May or September of 2020
- Made requested items from ISU Special Collections and interlibrary loan directly to patrons
- Scanned and emailed articles from the Library’s physical collection to students, faculty, and staff
- Added e-journals, journals, and other resources that publishers made available online via Zoom
- Developed a “book drop” so that students could return their physical items during the library’s closure
- Launched a student loan processing service for patrons
- Printed 3D printed personal protective equipment (PPE) for the local public health department
- Continued to provide limited Library loan services to off-campus students
- Provided information on the history of the Equipo 40 company at the Little Falls Store in Idaho Falls
- Provided images of the pillars on Red Hill being installed to an ISU student who had requested them for a thesis project with her vision and research
- Authorized contributing libraries including Tera Harder, Spencer Jardine, Mike Gow, Cris Corder, Jesse Adams, and Emma Willks, ISU’s CPT student.

The 2020 summer and early fall exhibits included works by two graduates of the Albright Center. Lynne Semenza. The “Anne Merkley’s Art Collection” exhibit features the works of each piece lies a story. Merkley states that behind the art are memories that encompass a wide range of cultures. Merkley states that behind each piece lies a story. The exhibit “Student Art Exhibit: Spring 2021” included works by two graduating students. Artists of Idaho State University: Brenna Miller and Bill Bybee. Miller, who obtained a Bachelor of Education degree with an emphasis on fine arts, derives much of her inspiration from rock climbing and the local high desert landscape of south-central Idaho. Miller entered a piece of acrylic paint that combines various mediums of fine art, including painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Bybee, who received a Master of Fine Arts, explores the worlds of codes and queer abstraction as avenues to blend of acrylic paint that combines various mediums of fine art, including painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Bybee, who received a Master of Fine Arts, explores the worlds of codes and queer abstraction as avenues to blend of acrylic paint that combines various mediums of fine art, including painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Bybee, who received a Master of Fine Arts, explores the worlds of codes and queer abstraction as avenues to blend of acrylic paint that combines various mediums of fine art, including painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Bybee, who received a Master of Fine Arts, explores the worlds of codes and queer abstraction as avenues to blend of acrylic paint that combines various mediums of fine art, including painting, printmaking, and sculpture. 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