SHU Looks to Potential OER Adoption: Curbing Textbook Costs and Encouraging New Pedagogical Design

--by Chelsea Stone & Zach Claybaugh

The Open Access movement’s appeal continues to grow on college campuses, while textbook prices climb and commercial publishers profit from the business of higher education. The use of open educational resources (OER) offers an alternative to traditionally published educational materials, creating a lower cost education for students that emphasizes collaboration and accessibility. Though higher textbook costs mean a higher profit for publishers and institutional bookstores, it does not benefit a university to have students not purchasing their textbooks, taking fewer courses or simply not doing the assigned reading because of the cost of course materials (https://openstaxcollege.org/).

As instruction and reference librarians we have students ask to borrow their textbooks from the library every semester. Some professors choose to keep self-purchased, personal, or library copies of materials on course reserve at the circulation desk, which can be checked out for a predetermined period of time. While the course-reserve option is aimed at reducing student expenses, the costs are instead borne by the instructor or the library. Additionally, course reserves often do not meet the student at their point of need.

OER can lift the personal and, at times, institutional burden of textbook costs, while providing high-quality materials that offer increased access and availability to students at little to no cost. Though OER are not always free, nor all customizable, for most learning situations there is an OER option. For example, some SHU faculty members are creating custom course packets of public domain content, such as the classic works of Plato and Socrates. This is just one instance where we can clearly see OER being utilized to bring valuable course content to students at minimal cost.

OER consists of any teaching or learning material with open licensing that allows students and faculty to use and reuse them at little to no cost; making access, not restriction, the priority. Creators are given the power to set their own copyright allowances based on how they want others to be able to use their work. OER are dynamic and evolving resources with the ability to reflect the nature of both teaching and learning (http://crln.acrl.org/content/76/4/215.full). It is common for OER to be found in online collections or digital repositories, produced by individuals, institutions or through collaborative efforts. Other initiatives provide inexpensive print versions that can be purchased online or carried in campus bookstores (https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7061.pdf). The collaborative and open nature of OER allows materials to be improved upon by faculty and can even encourage “pedagogical innovation,” by allowing faculty the freedom to create their lesson plans around the most effective materials for a given course, unit or reading.

The successful use and adoption of OER at SHU requires developing faculty and student awareness of these learning and teaching resources. According to the Babson Survey of faculty, 73.4% said that OER offers the same or better quality and 77.5% thought that they will or might use open resources in the next three years in 2014.
Assessing the Library’s Effectiveness

--by Gavin Ferriby, University Librarian

Is library doing what it should do, and can it demonstrate that?

Assessment is (and has been) a buzz word in academia. It can mean different things to different people: measuring satisfaction, or effectiveness, or quality, or return on investment (ROI), or reputation. There is no quick number that proves what a library is doing, any more than there is one quick number to measure a university.

Another way to ask that question above is: what is the library’s value proposition? What does the library do better than any other resource or operation on campus, and how does it show that? These are serious questions, and the stake-holders in the library (faculty, students, parents, trustees, accreditors) deserve serious responses. Serious responses require clarity, as well as nuance.

The library has joined forces with other academic support services and venues in a joint working group headed by Prof. Steven Michels. Shared or coordinated assessment will help to establish how well services work together, and where gaps occur and improvements can be made.

One particular library assessment tool is MISO (Measuring Information Services Outcomes), now in its third year at SHU. Every even-numbered year MISO surveys full-time undergraduates, faculty, and staff, and every odd-numbered year part-time students, graduate students, and distance students and faculty. Given at 55 colleges and universities, MISO helps the Library and the Division of Information Technology to benchmark user satisfaction and compare findings both with results from other years, and results from other institutions. MISO originated in 2002 at Bryn Mawr College, and is jointly administered by a variety of academic libraries since 2006. It is a high-quality survey instrument, professionally administered, with exceptionally strong response rates, and highly comparable results that permit real analysis.

In 2014 and 2015 the library learned that while a significant majority of users express high satisfaction with the library’s services, many users did not realize or understand the nature and extent of services available to them. Certain dis-satisfactions were predictable: not enough electrical outlets, and difficulties with using Harvard Business School case studies. (Since 2014 more electrical outlets have been provided—but still not enough. Harvard Business Publishing will not sell case studies to libraries, but only for business school course packs, or to individuals, at nearly exorbitant prices—because they can. The Library can do nothing about that, unfortunately.)
BrowZine

--by Jeff Orrico, Director of Digital Library Services

BrowZine, a new product available from the library to help you to stay current with leading journals in your field. BrowZine is a virtual bookshelf that saves and organizes the leading academic journals in your field to your favorite tablet, smartphone, or computer. BrowZine works by mining the library’s vast collection of academic journals and organizing them chronologically into virtual issues. To get started visit the library’s BrowZine Research Guide, or a link can be found under the “Faculty” tab on the library’s homepage. Download the free app today for your Apple or Android device.

AccessMedicine

--by Geoffrey Staysniak, Health Science Reference Librarian

This semester the library is proud to now offer AccessMedicine to its growing collection of health sciences databases. AccessMedicine is a comprehensive medical resource from McGraw Hill is a database resource that provides users with access to the full text of the current editions of over 80 medical textbook and reference titles with thousands of images and illustrations, all of which are continuously updated. Besides the textbooks, the database offerings also include over 150 case files, diagnostic tools, an integrated drug database, an extensive multimedia library, and more, providing the students of faculty of the College of Nursing and the College of Health Professions a great abundance of new high-quality resources.

NEWS from the DigitalCommons@SHU

--by Beverly Lyso bey, Digital Commons Librarian

Digital Commons Featured Work:
Digital Commons Featured Work: The SHU Prologue Yearbooks, including 1967, for the first SHU graduating class. http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/univpub_prologue/

Faculty & Students: Don’t wait for the Academic Festival! Send us your undergraduate best work! (posters, papers, images, etc.) Be part of the open access movement and show prospective employers and grad schools that you are published. Receive monthly download statistics. http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/undergrad/

Faculty: The New SelectedWorks
Improvements include a tabbed format, custom categories, capability to add multimedia & image files, easier to use interface, and an impressive author dashboard. Find out where in the world and what institutions are reading your work, including a download map for every faculty member.

Digital Commons@SHU : http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/

Gallery of Faculty SelectedWorks: http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/sw_gallery.html
Library Staff Current and Recent Books Read

Below is a list of books the library staff has either currently read or is reading. Each book has 1 to 5 star rating based on how they enjoyed the book.

Chelsea Stone:

The Map that Changed the World: William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology, by Simon Winchester ★★★★☆

Hubert's Freaks, by Gregory Gibson ★★★☆

The Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett ★★★★★

Beverly Lysobey:

The dive from Clausen's pier, by Anne Packer ★★★★★

Chief Inspector Gamache Series (11 titles in the mystery series so far, 2006-2015), by Louise Penny ★★★★★

Zach Claybaugh

Bloodshot Reborn Volume 2: The Hunt, by Jeff Lemire ★★★★☆

Giant Days Vol. 1, by John Allison & Whitney Cogar ★★★★☆

Lazarus, Vol. 3: Conclave, Greg Rucka ★★★☆

Daniel Fitzroy:

Marcus Aurelius: A Life, by Frank McLynn ★★★★★

Deana Santoro-Dillon:

Girl on the Train, Paula Hawkins ★★★☆

The Kill Room, Jeffrey Deaver ★★★☆

Sue Shim:

In Defense of a Liberal Education, by Fareed Zakaria ★★★☆

Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream, by Jashua Davis ★★★★☆

Gavin Ferriby:

The Woman Lit By Fireflies [fiction], by Jim Harrison ★★★★☆

Facing Climate Change: An Integrated Path to the Future, by Jeffrey Kiehl ★★★★★

On Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, by Atul Gawande ★★★★★
Staff Book Review

--by Chelsea Stone, Digital Projects & Resource Management Librarian


Gregory Gibson and I were introduced at a rare book fair in Brooklyn during the summer of 2015. His stall was a few down our aisle and Gibson frequently floated by mingling with sellers and customers alike, wearing a red Hawaiian printed shirt. At his stall, he was welcoming and seemed to possess a wisdom as he discussed his wares and shared his knowledge of the book trade. His reputation proceeded him and yet I had not read any of his books.

I had been told that he had a penetrating, dry sense of humor and that he was intelligent and thoughtful. As an author these qualities were paired with a sense of intimacy and honesty that comes through in Gibson’s writing. I had also been told of the circumstances of the death of his eldest son. Galen Gibson was killed in 1992, at the entrance of his college library; a victim of a school “shooting spree” at Simon’s Rock College that killed two and injured four. “Gone Boy: A Walkabout: A Father’s Search for the Truth in His Son’s Murder,” documents Gibson’s attempt to channel his grief, frustration and anger in a productive, healing way before they consume and destroy him.

Gibson’s book is an investigation. An investigation into the failures of an educational institution to protect its students, of an administration to react properly to a potential threat, of a society not regulating guns because they want freedom, of a culture of gun violence, and of a misguided, disconnected youth. School shootings are a pervasive aspect of American Society; from tradition to recreation, we have a relationship with guns that is convoluted and incomprehensible to many domestically and abroad. Gibson looks into the laws and policies surrounding guns, the trade and sale of guns and even the manufacturing, modifications and mechanics of the cheap, imported, semiautomatic rifle that was used to kill his son.

After initiating a civil lawsuit, Gibson feels rage, resentment and helplessness. He seeks the facts surrounding every aspect of the incident at Simon’s Rock to console these emotions. He seeks the facts as an answer to America’s complacency and lament, “How/why did this happen.” He seeks the facts to try and understand the deranged youth who was able to purchase a firearm, ammunition and modification parts through the mail and internet. The facts and fictions Gibson reveals on his journey are visceral and poignant.

This book is ultimately about a father struggling to make it all mean something and to continue to care for his son after his passing. Gibson’s story is driven by a strong belief in the moral high road and holding people accountable in the wake of tragedy. The reader feels maddeningly close to Gibson and his process of discovery and healing. His honesty is raw and magnanimous, leaving the reader humbled by his resolve and unrelenting queries. The 2011 publication of this book includes a seeming inevitable epilogue, which puts the two of the most unlikely people in communication and validating Gibson’s walkabout.

Future direction of the profession. He was joined by numerous fellow alumni of the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, which he attended in 2007.

Jeff Orrico attended the Computers in Libraries Conference in Washington DC this past March. Computers in Libraries is one of the premier conferences showcasing emerging technologies and the latest digital resources available in the library industry. The invaluable insight gained from the conference will help guide decisions about future library technology acquisitions and provide strategies to help manage current digital library resources. Jeff was also accepted to and will be attending the Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians this August.

Congratulations to Linda Patrick, for her 30 years of service to Sacred Heart University, and to Kim Macomber for her 15 years. They will be recognized at Founder’s Day.

Daniel Fitzroy and Wenling Ma attended the Innovative Users Group conference in San Francisco, March 16-18. This Group is the primary meeting of libraries using Innovative Interfaces software and services, and offers valuable training to use them most effectively.

Staff News

Gavin Ferriby attended Library Leadership in a Digital Age, a conversation at Harvard Graduate School of Education (Programs in Professional Education) that brought together faculty experts, policy makers, and library leaders to consider the current and future direction of the profession. He was joined by numerous fellow alumni of the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, which he attended in 2007.

Chelsea Stone attended the ITHAKA Conference & NEA Conference/Digital Archivist Specialization.

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Knowledge Unlatched: Unlashes 78 More Digital Books

--by Gavin Ferriby, University Librarian

Last year the Library joined 300 other libraries from 24 countries in supporting a pilot, “proof of concept” collection of 28 digital books from 13 recognized scholarly publishers. The concept was simple: enough library support (a minimum of 200) would allow the publishers to make these digital books open access –freely available to any Web user. Knowledge Unlatched exceeded its goal by half. The books were “unlatched” (unlocked), and were indexed on Google Scholar, and saw significant use. The concept was proved. Total cost to the Library: $1,195 or $42.70 per title –a very good price for scholarly books from high-quality University presses.

“Round Two” began last Fall: 78 books from 26 publishers. Enough support had been gathered by early March. The final cost remains to be determined, but will not exceed $3,891, or just under $50 per book –a very good price again.

Scholarly books cost a good deal more than more popular “trade” books from Amazon, because their costs of production are far higher and press runs run far smaller. Depending upon reproductions, rights, and other requirements, production costs can run from about $25,000 to over $110,000. Press runs are typically 400 –yielding a production cost of $62.50 each for those books produced less expensively. (The production cost does not include other publishing costs and distribution costs, or vendors’ mark-up.) Probably Amazon takes a loss on all these books. Amazon is famously mum about its finances and costs. Probably many scholars—and some libraries—are assisted by an unofficial and unacknowledged Amazon subsidy that could be revoked whenever it no longer serves Amazon’s business plan.

Knowledge Unlatched is an experiment—a serious pilot project to assess new and different ways of paying for scholarly publishing. The established so-called “for-profit” models no longer work well or at all (so-called because few scholarly publishers actually earn money, and most merely hope to break even). Sustainable scholarly communication through both journals and monographs is a pressing question in an era of fiscal constraints. The University Library is committed to finding alternate, sustainable, and honest paths forward.

Working with the Jandrisevits Learning Center (JLC) to Improve Student Writing & Research

--by Zach Claybaugh, Digital Learning Initiatives Librarian

As most of the Sacred Heart University community already knows, the Jandrisevits Learning Center (JLC) recently moved to their new home in the brand new Student Success Center, leaving behind the confines of the bottom floor of the Ryan Matura Library. While the JLC no longer shares space with Sacred Heart University Library, we are diligently working to continue and improve our collaborative efforts in providing Sacred Heart University students with academic support services that will give them the skills to succeed in their academic lives and professional futures.

Over the past couple of months, we have been working on a project both to increase our own efficiency in managing these records and titles and to improve your access to these titles. Due to the various vendors and different access models ranging from individual purchases to large subscription packages, some eBooks are accessible to you in multiple databases. In the past, we had been managing access to these titles on separate records in the catalog. While this worked, it increased the number of records that we maintained and created multiple results in the search results list for the exact same eBook. This could result in a slightly cluttered search results lists that made finding the correct information more difficult during your searches in our catalog.

The project that is now wrapping-up has brought us closer to a single eBook title/single record model. Now, if an eBook is accessible in multiple databases, the one main
We understand that when researching, you would love to be able to get to the full text of the articles as easily as possible. In an effort to streamline the research process and connect you to the full text of the articles and items that you want, we have updated and improved our 360Link service.

The 360Link service is what is known as an OpenURL link resolver and can be used to bring you to the full text of articles in any of the databases to which we have access. Sometimes you are searching in a database and come across a title that sounds perfect for your research, but the database only has the abstract. At that point, look for the 360Link logo or “Check for full text” link. Once you click it, 360Link will check our holdings in all our databases to see if we have access to the full text. If we have access to the full text, the 360Link page will display a large, red button that says “Full Text Online”. Once you click that link, you will be taken to the full text in another database. If we do not have access to the full text of the article, the 360Link page will display a large, red button that says “Request this item”.

Clicking this link will bring you into our ILLiad Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service after logging in with your university credentials. The ILL form will be prepopulated with the citation information that you were seeking, so simply doublecheck the information and click “Submit”. Normally, our ILL department will get you a digital copy of the article within a couple business days.

In addition, the upgraded 360Link has a new service called “Citation Linker”, which can be useful when you are conducting research and have citations either from a list from faculty or from a bibliography. To use this service, simply go to our homepage library.sacredheart.edu, click on the “Journal Finder” link under Library Resources, and then click on the “Citation Linker” link towards the top, right corner of the page.

Fill out the form with the information from the citation you are seeking and click the red “Find it” link. If we have access to the article, click the “Full Text Online” link to go to the full text, or if we do not have access, click on the “Request this item” link to request the article through ILL as described above.

We hope you enjoy using this service and easily find the information you are seeking. If you have any questions regarding 360Link or the Citation Linker, please feel free to visit us in the library at the Reference Desk.
Ryan Matura Library Book Club
Reading List and Meeting Dates

April: *Miracle Man* by William R Leibowitz
— Book Club Meeting for April book will be
May 3, 2016 at 1:00 PM at the Library Café

If you are interested in participating in the Book Club please email me, Renata Cioffi, at cioffim@sacredheart.edu or Libby Knapik at knapike@sacredheart.edu

Enjoy the readings!

Assessing the Library’s Effectiveness

- Continued from page 2-

The 2016 MISO survey was administered in early February, and results will be communicated to the Library in the coming weeks. This one survey by itself does not demonstrate the Library’s value proposition, but it does show the library’s impact on users, and how it could have greater impact. Assessing performance against that value proposition is an on-going project for every member of the Library staff.

Staff News

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Literary Spring sponsored by the Ryan Matura Library, the English Department, and Office Of The Provost.

**April 7, 2016**

Michael White, Novelist/Author - Resting Places - Lecture at 7:00 PM - Lecture will take place at Sacred Heart University McMahon Building Presentation Room (across from Bookstore)

**April 21, 2016**

Rennie McQuilkin, Poet Laureate of Connecticut - The Weathering - Lecture at 3:00 PM - Lecture to take place at Sacred Heart University Art Gallery

Starbucks Library Café

Fall & Spring Semester Hours

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Grab And Go Sandwiches or Salad

With a Selection of Drinks