GTCC Libraries

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The Library News

OER: What Does That Mean?

Did you know that — on average — college students spend $1,200 on textbooks per year?

Colleges across the United States are encouraging faculty to seek cost-saving solutions. Some colleges are encouraging the use of textbooks that provide quality information for less cost. This type of textbook is called an OER.

OER stands for **Open Education Resources**. OERs are any resource (mostly textbooks) that are created and published under a creative commons license. OERs can be textbooks, videos, PowerPoint presentations, images, etc. A creative commons license means that copyright rules do not apply. Faculty can use, change, edit, and remix the textbook without permission from the author/creator. OERs can be both digital and print textbooks.

Generally, students that choose to use the digital copy will not have to pay for the book. On the other hand, students may have to pay a small fee if they wish to use a print version of the OER. This fee is usually significantly less than a traditional textbook and covers the cost of printing and binding the book.

Open Education Resources is an emerging trend in providing information to students by providing a quality information source for less cost.

If you have questions about this type of resource, please contact Alisha Webb, Reference Librarian. Email her at amwebb@gtcc.edu.

GTCC Library Staff Attend 2019 NC LIVE Conference

On Monday 5/13/19 two reference librarians on the GTCC library staff attended the NC LIVE conference held at UNCG. NC LIVE is the program funded through state government that acts as an aggregator for libraries of all kinds in NC to provide access to online databases. The importance of this organization cannot be overstated for libraries in this state; many libraries would be unable to provide many of the databases without the combined purchasing power of NC LIVE; the cost of many of these databases would be prohibitive for many libraries on their own. NC LIVE is an invaluable service to the libraries and library patrons of the state of NC.

The GTCC attendees were reference librarians Keith Burkhead and Amy Bondy. Both attended the opening and keynote speaker session. Heard in this session was a report on NC LIVE'S activities for the previous year and a keynote session on the open education resource (OER) movement. Amy attended workshops on "OER & Textbook Affordability in Your Small Academic Library", "Boosting Discoverability and Access", and "Paving the Way: One Community College's Efforts to Steer Community Colleges Towards OERs." Keith attended workshops on "Testing Website Accessibility for Visually Impaired Students" and "Digital Media Pathway for Latino/Hispanic Students-the UNCG CHANCE Program." Keith also conducted a session on "Taking Your Library to the Movies: Creating Your Library Video."

The keynote speaker was Ms. Nicole Allen, Director of Open Education for SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, an organization devoted to making open resources the default for the academic community. Ms. Allen delivered a historical overview of the development of the OER with pauses for reflection on the ideas behind the movement. OER examines the price of student textbooks on a micro and macro level, the micro being the actual cost of student textbooks and the macro being the impact of the cost of textbooks on student's overall financial and living situation. Librarians became heavily involved in the movement in 2012 when Rice University became the first major academic institution to adopt open resource textbooks. Librarians were solicited by the movement for their experience in digital materials and electronic resource license negotiation. A summary statement realized that OER is here to stay, that the way forward for OER is to continue to improve the quality of such resources, and that federal and state governments are increasingly interested in OER as a way to better serve students.

The first workshop Keith attended grew out of a student complaint at UNC-CH regarding the accessibility of UNC websites to visually impaired students. Addressing this led a review of ALL websites provided across UNC-CH, including but not limited to the library's. The presenters then discussed relevant federal standards for assuring website compliance and reviewed the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). This was followed by a discussion of the process of reviewing websites to insure they meet the standards. A combination of manual and automated auditing is strongly recommended. Automated tools will speed up the process but manual efforts are required to check some details and to make sure that website design addresses requirements. The session concluded with a review of online and automated resources for conducting audits.

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The second session Keith attended was a presentation about a project at UNCG aiming to provide a week long immersion experience in college life for Hispanic students. Rising high school juniors attend a week long camp at UNCG that exposes them to all facets of college life, everything from dorm living to registration to using college resources. The library's part in this was to assist groups of students in creating short videos to show their parents at the end of the week through use of the library's digital media lab. The program has increased greatly in the number of participants in the 3 years it has been in operation, going from a 3 day, 60 person camp to a week-long event that is allowing for up to 160 participants for summer 2019 camp. The success of this program is attributed to strong buy-in from all academic units of the college, including but not limited to the library.

The first session that Amy attended was a panel discussion about how to start and sustain an OER program at a small campus. The session panelists were from NCLIVE, Salem College, and Wake Technical Community College. The session began with a discussion about the Open Education North Carolina (OENC) program developed by NCLIVE to curate OER resources and a handout created to help academic institutions prepare for beginning an OER initiative on our campuses. Then, Salem College and Wake Technical Community College shared their experiences as they spearheaded the OER programs on their respective campuses. Big takeaways from each of these institutions experiences are that timing, marketing strategies, and administrative support are all very helpful in starting your OER initiative.

The second session Amy attended focused on the Library website and the different ways we use the website to reach and serve our communities. More specifically, this session focused on best practices and key elements to keep in mind when designing or editing your Library home page. This session prompted a discussion at our next librarians meeting about changing the wording we use on the GTCC Library homepage related to databases. As a result, the library staff decided to change the "Find Resources" button to say "Databases by Subject" – this change reflects the language most commonly used by our faculty, staff and students when referencing the database content provided by the Library – and will hopefully improve discoverability and access. Visit https://library.gtcc.edu to check it out!

The final session Amy attended was a presentation by Steve Smith, a Sociology professor at South Piedmont Community College. Steve had just finished his first semester teaching "text-book free". Steve was a recipient of the OENC grant and had committed to selecting and teaching from an OER textbook that would replace his current textbook – which was becoming a costly barrier for his students. Steve's experience with using an OER was largely positive, and he said that his students performed just as well with the OER textbook as they did with the more expensive publisher textbook. For any faculty considering the switch to an OER textbook, Steve recommended looking at the list of faculty grant winners on OENC website to see if another faculty member in your field of study has already made the transition to OERs. If so – don't hesitate to contact them! They are probably happy to share their course design and materials selection with you.

— Keith Burkhead & Amy Bondy, Reference Librarians

Emerging Tech Trends for Libraries | 2019

At the end of the spring semester, I attended "Emerging Technology Trends For Libraries", a State Library continuing education workshop. This workshop was led by David Lee King, a public library branch manager from Kansas who is well known for presentations on technology topics.

Technology is increasingly interwoven into our lives. While we may be able to make choices to reduce technology in our private lives, it is widespread throughout most work environments. This presentation discussed some of these current technology trends and some of the ways they are impacting libraries now and how they may do so in the future. What are some of these trends? Some of these have "funny names" but I will try to show you how each will be or already is part of library services and operations.

The Internet of Things describes the ongoing expansion of Internet connectivity in our lives above and beyond desktop computers, tablets, and smartphones. Many new technologies in this category have a monitoring or location function, or can be controlled from a smartphone. Some examples of this trend affecting libraries are "smart" lighting and adaptive HVAC systems implemented in libraries; RFID chips for circulating books, DVDs, and other library collection materials; and a new app called iBeacon that streams information to subscriber's smartphones about collections, library services, etc. as they move through a library (iBeacon is also being used in some museums).

Autonomous Things refers to apps or technologies that will perform a task without direct human control. In large public and university libraries this has led to the development of autonomous sorting and shelving systems for returned books.

You may have already heard about Artificial Intelligence or AI. This is technology that goes beyond Autonomous Things; it has the ability to not only perform a function, but to "learn" every time that function is completed, and over time improve performance of that function. Some examples of the implementation of AI in libraries include software for staff scheduling, and online catalog software that analyzes use patterns to make reading recommendations and marketing messages to customers and purchase recommendations to library staff.

Mobility and Mobile Services refers to more and more services and marketing information becoming available through mobile devices. 77% of adults in the U.S. own a smartphone. That percentage jumps to 92% when you look at the 18 – 20 year – old age group. In one study of a large public library in the Midwest, it was found that only 36% of customers reach library information or services from desktop PCs. Libraries are affected in this area by the maintain and update the accessibility of mobile versions of their web page and online catalog; the currency of the information in their Google profile; and the reliability and ease of access of their Wi-Fi networks.

Privacy is a fiercely debated topic and one where technology is often moving faster than laws can keep up; it is far easier to move information online from one point to another than it is to create systems and processes to keep that information secure.

GTCC Library and other libraries are constantly working to stay current on privacy issues and protect patron information as software and other online tools change. In addition we maintain a close working relationship with the ITS department to ensure that information remains secure.

— Michael Rose
High Point Campus Librarian

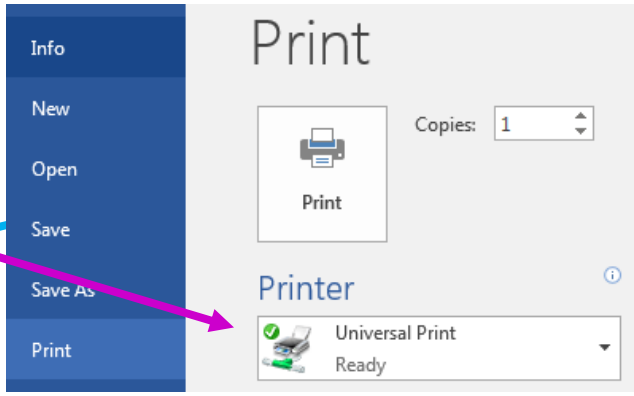
Printing with Papercut *for Students*

Step 1:

Make sure that the printer is set to <u>Universal Print</u>.

Step 2:

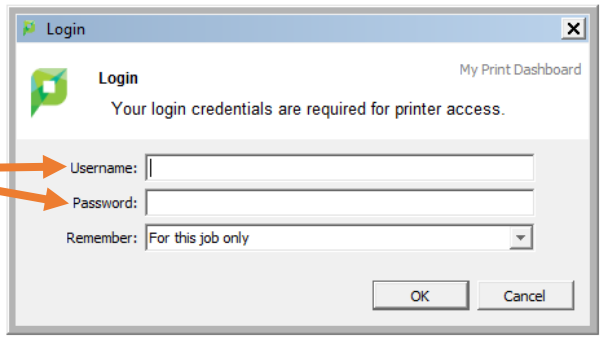
Click 'Print'.



Step 3:

Type your username and password into the information box that pops-up.

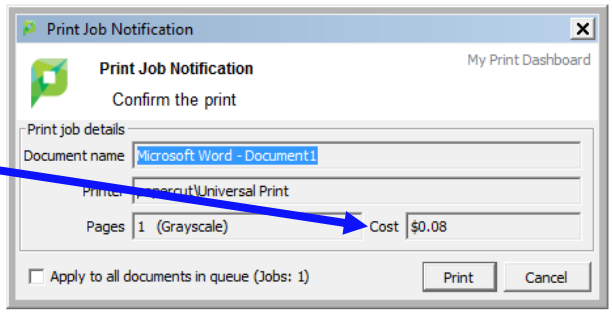
Click 'OK'.



Step 4:

A second information box will appear detailing the cost of your print job.

Click 'Print' to confirm the print job.



Step 5:

Go to a print release station to release your print job.

Enjoy a successful print job with a happy dance!

Before starting on any print job, please remember to add money to your student account at the Bookstore to ensure that you are able to print.

— Grace Price & Le'Sharner Smith, Library Circulation Technicians