

Enhancing the Discoverability of Open Textbooks: The European Initiative of the LIBER Educational Resources WG

Session: Learning from pitfalls and embracing the promises of Open Educational Resources collection development

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Where we come from: ZBW and ZHAW

- [ZBW](#): very large special library for business and economics and related subjects, founded in 1919, part of the [Leibniz Association](#), situated in Kiel and Hamburg, Germany.
- The [ZHAW](#) is one of the leading universities of applied sciences in Switzerland.



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The [LIBER Working Group Educational Resources](#)



- aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources to staff and students. In 2023-2024, the focus will be on **promoting and advancing in the area of open textbooks.**
- As LIBER libraries are supporting research universities with collections and research support, during recent years their focus has broadened to include teaching and learning.
- 18 [members](#) from 11 countries in August 2023

Enhancing Discoverability of Open Textbooks

- **Educational publications are different from research collections:**
 - There are no consortium deals for educational content
 - Resources come in different forms and shapes
 - Language is a more important factor in education than in research
 - Publishers have increasingly restrictive and costly models of provision

- Status quo and findings of the two first **work packages on open textbooks** in the **LIBER educational resources working group**
 - Discoverability and collection curation
 - Measuring and assessing impact

Status Quo: Similar Struggles everywhere

I think it is hard to find relevant open textbooks – even though there are many platforms out there.

I find it hard, too





Yes, I agree

How can we include and present them?

How to find relevant OER?

Status Quo: Use collective wisdom

OER for _____ with focus on _____ ? 9 views Subscribe




 to SPARC Libraries & OER Forum 2023, 6:05:31 PM   

Hello!

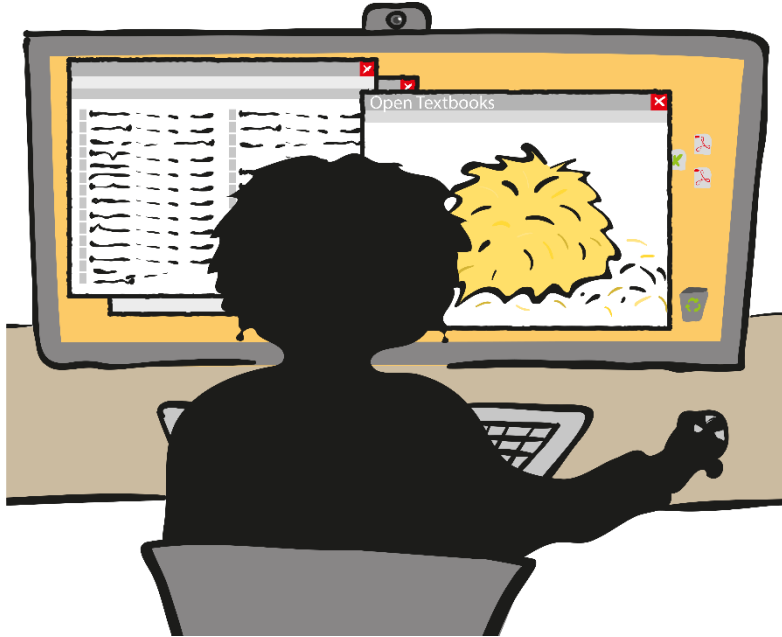
I have a faculty member who is looking at what options exist for OER in _____ . Any suggestions?

I have found _____ but wasn't sure if I was missing any.

Thanks!

 Reply all  Reply to author  Forward

Can you find the difference between the two pictures?



Question

- How can we make it easier to find the needle in the haystack?
 - if we assume there is a needle out there - somewhere

How can we enhance the discoverability of open textbooks - in our own discovery systems?

- **Find and identify the right content**
 - Which relevant collections are out there?
 - Do they fit the institutions quality criteria?
 - Do they have good metadata?
 - Do they have an API or interfaces or dumps?
 - Is a subject selection possible?
- **Which aggregators can be used for this?**
 - [DOAB](#), [OERSI](#), [Pressbooks](#)...

Motivation for improved discoverability

- **Educators:** Find great resources for teaching fast and easily, don't have to worry about students' budgets or remixing sources
- **Authors** of Open Textbooks: Make the world a better place, improve teaching, freedom, get recognition for their work
- **Libraries:** Show that their systems help to find good, relevant, reusable resources fast
- **Administrators:** Save money and show impact of institutional staff (x amount of money saved, x downloads and reuses for textbooks produced by our institution)

Some findings from LIBER Working group and workshop

existing collections that offer quality control

- Finland HELDA open, national service of publications, www.aoe.fi ...
- OAPEN Library open.org
- Open textbook library, open education network, open.umn.edu
- TU Delft Open Textbooks
- [OERSI](#)
- Openlogic project, open source, collaborative, logic text
- Edusources.nl, repository and community supported lists
- What is "collection"? Publishing house? Built selection?...

quality criteria

- Availability of linked data, e.g. author's affiliation
- Recommendations from others, known authors
- Is the publisher well-known, recognized? ...
- background information about who the book is aimed at / Level of programme
- Version control, unique identifiers to track versions
- Peer review process but also: community created and use of informal peer review
- How up-to-date is this book?
- Reassuring impact and usage...

cornerstones for collection curation

- Versions, formats, standards
- use [GitHub](#)? But do library systems work with [GitHub](#)?
- How to include more dynamic books?
- Interoperability between platforms
- Good metadata
- Peer review (but only real peer review)
- How do students like a particular book?
- ...

Example [EconBiz](#): Filters: free & textbook: Result: 55 publications – more could probably be found

Not all relevant publications have the label „textbook“, „freely available“ does not necessarily mean open licence
→ Still a lot of work ahead

The screenshot shows the EconBiz search results page. The top navigation bar includes the EconBiz logo and links for A-Z, Beta, About EconBiz, News, Thesaurus (STW), Research Skills, and Help. Below the navigation is a search bar with the text "Search for publications" and a "Search" button. A filter bar below the search bar includes options for "Retain my current filters", "All Fields", "Open Access only", "Advanced", "Search history", and "Favorites". The main content area shows a list of publications, with the first five items visible. Each item includes a book icon, the title, author, year, and edition, along with a "freely available" label and a "Full text" link. The right sidebar contains filter options for "Year of publication", "Subject", "Online availability", and "Type of publication". The "Online availability" filter shows "Free" selected with a count of 1,063. The "Type of publication" filter shows "Textbook" selected with a count of 440,214. A yellow arrow points to the "Free" option in the "Online availability" filter, and another yellow arrow points to the "Textbook" option in the "Type of publication" filter. A yellow arrow also points to the "Showing 1 - 10 of 55" text at the top of the results list.

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Publications Events

Q Search for publications Search

Retain my current filters

All Fields Open Access only Advanced Search history Favorites

You are here: [Home](#) / Search:

Showing 1 - 10 of 55 Sort Relevance

- Book** **Fundamentals of business**
Poff, Ron - Pamplin College of Business - 2023 - Fourth edition
freely available Full text | More access options
- Book** **Introduction to financial analysis**
Bigel, Kenneth S. - 2022
freely available Full text | More access options
- Book** **Project management : navigating the complexity with a systematic approach**
Oguz, Abdullah - 2022
freely available Full text | More access options
- Book** **Advanced macroeconomics : an easy guide**
Campante, Filipe R.; Sturzenegger, Federico; Velasco, ... - 2021
freely available Full text | More access options
- Book** **Customer centric strategy**
Shields, Kerri - 2021

× Delete all filters | 2 applied filters

Year of publication

Subject

Online availability

All
 Free 1,063
 Undetermined

Type of publication

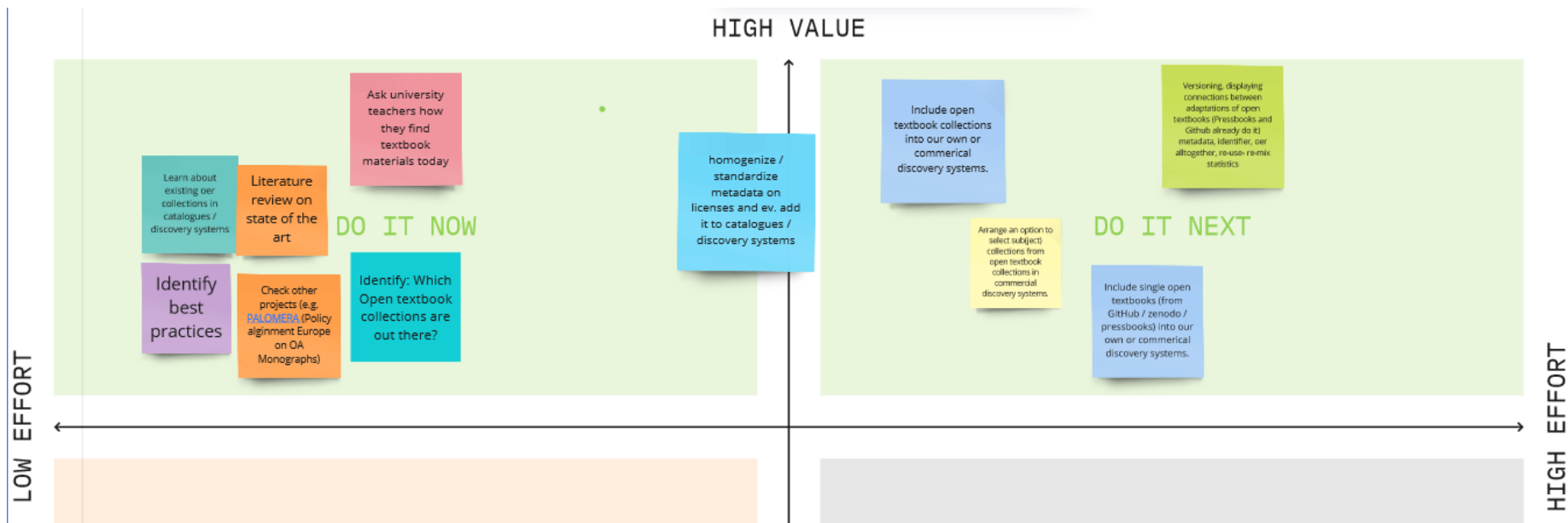
Type of publication (narrower categories)

All
 Textbook 440,214
 Working Paper 346,848
 Graue Literatur

A service of the
ZBW

Chat icon

LIBER Working Group Work Packages




Thank you for listening!



Who can say this about their collection?

Questions and Contact Infos

- Do you have any questions? Contact us!




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