Who we are

Our growing community of higher education leaders works together to build sustainable open education programs.

We take pride in the global impact of our work, and where our community really shines is in the support we provide one another. This is how our members describe the OEN, in their own words:

224 +115%* members
(includes Allied)

1,449 +42% campuses

859 +42% textbooks

73% textbooks reviewed

*Percent change since 2019
The OEN conducted our second Community Scan survey in February 2021 checking in with members and circling back on how the needs of our community have evolved since the first Community Scan was conducted in 2019. This report reflects the current challenges faced by open education programs across our network, as well as ideas for how we as a community can best support one another in transforming higher education through the advancement of open education initiatives.

RESPONSES
84 members representing
69 institutions, 12 consortia

Click the icon to view the full list of questions asked in the Community Scan survey:
Community-identified challenges

- Lack of money, time, staff
- Scaling OER initiatives
- Sustainability of OER materials & programs
- Tracking OER use & program data
- Faculty resistance & competing priorities
- High-level decision-making & leadership support during a pandemic
- Expanding publishing efforts
Community ideas to address challenges

We believe that the solutions to these challenges can be found within our community. Our job as an organization is to harness the creativity and innovation of our members, and take action to support them as we collectively move open education forward.

Lack of money, time, staff

- Aid in building professional relationships between members.
- "Borrow-a-peer" program where people can sign up to be experts on a topic to lend support to fellow members.
- Improve usability of the Community Hub.
- Share more ready-to-use resources on the Community Hub, particularly for use by those in intermediate stages of OER programming.
- Offer short, easily digestible video content for OER staff professional development that can also be shared with faculty & campus partners.
- Share strategies for working on a shoestring budget & obtaining funding to support OER initiatives.

Scaling OER initiatives

- Develop targeted materials & share best practices specific to consortia advancing initiatives at member institutions.
- Offer workshops on how to best coordinate efforts across different support units (libraries, centers for teaching & learning, disability resource centers, etc.).
- Offer webinars & materials targeted at engaging different stakeholders, including students.

Sustainability of OER materials & programs

- Add templates to the Community Hub that outline OER initiative structures & streamlined processes that can serve as a base for program development in the face of faculty and staff turnover.
- Create training modules related to the next stages beyond the OEN workshop that focus on editing and remixing OER.
- Offer materials & training that focuses on diversity, equity & inclusion as well as accessibility.
Community ideas to address challenges

Faculty resistance & competing priorities

- Compile faculty-centered OER case studies & success stories that can be shared as a means of promoting OER use.
- Connect faculty who use OER to those who are new to OER initiatives via faculty-oriented trainings or networking opportunities.
- Share resources & best practices for integrating OER adoption & creation into tenure track processes.
- Design certificates of completion or other swag for faculty who participate in OER programming.
- Create open pedagogy communities of practice, particularly for specific disciplines or subject areas with scarce OER availability.
- Offer curated lists of textbooks organized by disciplinary or curricular needs.
- Increase availability of ancillary materials in the Open Textbook Library.

Tracking OER use & program data

- Expand the functionality of the Data Dashboard to track OER initiatives beyond the faculty workshop.
- Share documentation & best practices on how to collect, retain, & update OER usage data.
- Offer webinars & trainings on advanced data collection & evaluation processes.

Expanding publishing efforts

- Consider ways to integrate the instructional design perspective into publishing content & training materials.
- Provide discipline-specific publishing webinars, events & materials.
- Provide estimated publishing time & cost estimates.
Next steps

Inspired by the passion and resilience of our members during a time of change, our goal is to continually adapt, improve and respond to community needs.

We look forward to enacting the following strategies alongside our community members over the next two years:

- Approach the work of the OEN with a diversity, equity and inclusion lens, centering social justice.

- Expand the functionality of the Data Dashboard to more accurately capture data on the diverse initiatives of our members.

- Increase networking opportunities, including the launch of a program that pairs OEN members with one another to facilitate professional relationship-building.

- Revive events programming, including webinars and community conversations on in-demand topics, targeting various stages of open ed programming.

- Offer more asynchronous professional development, and create short videos for members to share with faculty and campus partners.

- Create certificate of completion templates with OEN branding for faculty and campus partner recognition in lieu of financial rewards.

- Provide guidance on best practices for consortial members through improved orientation materials and targeted community conversations.

- Review structure and content of the Community Hub to enhance its usability and relevance.

Our members are the heart of the Open Education Network, and they drive our work moving forward.
Thank you

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