Analysis of Indiana Statewide OER/Affordable Learning Survey and Recommendations for Next Steps

Summary:
In November 2018, a short survey sent to the Academic Libraries of Indiana’s director listserv yielded 26 responses regarding Indiana Statewide OER/Affordable Learning Survey activity and needs. The results indicate that most Indiana libraries are just starting to explore this topic, while several have started the course conversion process, with a select few reporting significant progress. Based on the analysis of questions about areas of interest and support needs, we have provided a list of potential actions to support future directions.

Background:
In late 2018, the Midwest Higher Education Compact convened a regional meeting and recruited an action team for Indiana to advance OER in the state. The Indiana action team includes one administrator, two faculty members, and two librarians (Melissa Gustafson and Amanda Hurford). This activity spurred conversation amongst a small group of librarians working with OER to consider the best way to work with the MHEC group and mobilize librarians for some sort of coordinated action across the state.

These librarians created a survey asking about current activity and interest/needs for future direction. Facilitated by PALNI Executive Director Kirsten Leonard, the survey was distributed to the ALI Director's listserv. The librarian group members are:
- Melissa Gustafson, Indiana State University
- Sarah Hare, IU Bloomington
- Amanda Hurford, PALNI
- Justin Kani, IUPUI
- Jan Woodall, Ivy Tech
- Andrea Wright, University of Southern Indiana

Survey Results:
- 26 responses
  - 15 Library Directors/Deans
  - 5 Scholarly Communications Librarians
- Other titles: Coordinator of Collections & Online Resources, Public Services & Outreach Librarian, Online Learning Librarian, Asst Director & Head of Public Services, eResources & Copyright Librarian, Technical Services Librarian

- Current activity
  - Exploration (12)
  - Course transformation (8)
  - Faculty workshops (5)
  - Consortial approach (4)
  - Stipends (4)
  - Nothing (3)
  - Pilot phase (3)
  - Team approach (3)
  - LibGuide (2)
  - Lumen Learning (2)
  - Open Textbook Network (2)
  - Significant savings achieved (2)
  - Conference Planning (1)
  - Inclusive Access (1)

- Future directions
  - Textbooks (8)
    - Mention of open textbooks (6)
    - Guide on how to implement and use Pressbooks (2)
  - Community (7)
    - More local OER conferences (3)
    - State OER consortium (2)
    - Online portal to share resources (1)
    - Work with K-12 orgs, trade schools, non-traditional academy (1)
  - Outreach/Support (5)
    - Workshops on OER
      - How to create/find OER (2)
      - Template for workshops to faculty (2)
      - How to set up a faculty review program (1)
  - Funding (4)
    - General (2)
    - Support for OER textbook initiatives (1)
    - Creation of OER grants (1)

Actions to Support Future Directions

Each of the following subgroups of recommendations are organized by level of commitment, with the first bullet point focused on preliminary and proof of concept work and the last bullet point centered on a more fully-formed statewide initiatives.
Community
- Create an ALI-based affordable learning interest group with listserv, online communication, and in-person meeting support
- Identify leadership to facilitate the group and liaise with external entities
- Host an online portal to share resources
- Sponsor a local OER conference
- Join Open Textbook Network as a consortial member

Textbooks
- Create a resource guide for implementing Open Textbooks, including editing with Pressbooks (for librarians and faculty)
- Consortial subscription to Pressbooks.edu

Outreach/Support
- Add OER libguide page to ALI website
- Assemble a list of Indiana-based OER presenters
- Host webinars and librarian-focused in-person workshops on OER, with tiered adopt/ adapt/create modules
- Sponsor a virtual-based OER training cohort model culminating with capstone projects to be presented at a future ALI meeting
- Provide tangible support for faculty education in the form of templates for workshops, guides for creating OER, etc.

Funding
- Apply for national grants for a consortium-level project
- Offer grant funding to members in support of their initiatives on an application basis

Next Steps for ALI

Based on the survey data collected, ALI has several options for supporting OER initiatives and building community across Indiana. At this stage we are asking approval for the existing group to start with Tier I activity and to investigate the feasibility of Tiers II and III within ALI structure.

Tier I
- Establish the ALI-based affordable learning interest group, naming group members and articulating a charge (the charge should have a tangible deliverable that can be completed—a statewide conference, identifying a fund for shared OER work, compiling a speaker series, etc.—not just “building interest in OER”)
- Create a listserv, web space, and online portal to share resources
Tier II

- Assemble a team of OER presenters available to provide outreach and training workshops virtually and in person
- Establish an annual statewide conference for recipients to share what people are doing

Tier III

- Join the Open Textbook Network at the consortial level, identifying system leads to “train the trainers” and attend the OTN Summer Institute and then travel to ALI member institutions to spread knowledge OR
- Create an OER fund that institutions can apply to incentivize OER work locally
  a. Create a committee to review and award applications
  b. Establish a showcase to highlight this work across the state