

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.



Zurich University
of Applied Sciences



Leibniz-Informationszentrum
Wirtschaft
Leibniz Information Centre
for Economics

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.

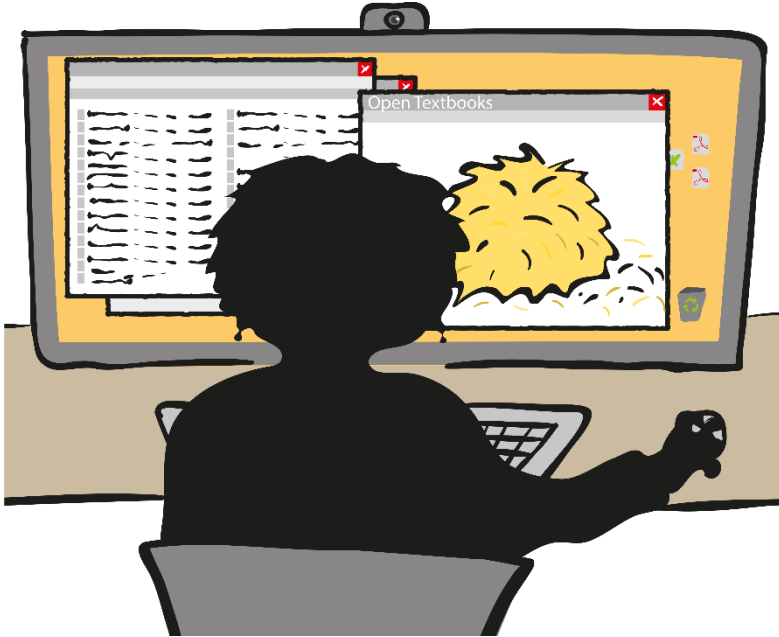
Thanks!

 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 / [DOAB](http://doab.org)
- Open textbook library, open education network, open.umn.edu
- TU Delft Open Textbooks
- [OERSI](http://oersi.org)
- 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

ECONBIZ
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Publications | Events










Search for publications **Search**

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5	 Customer centric strategy Shields, Kerri - 2021	<input type="checkbox"/> ★

× 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

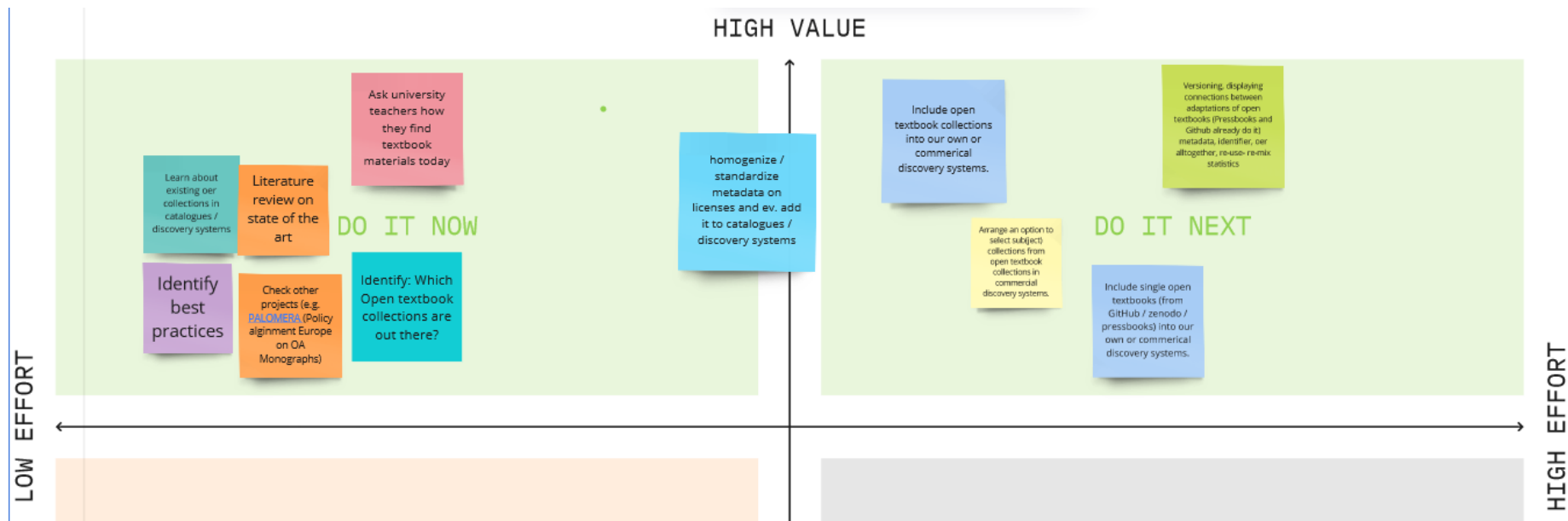
☐ Working Paper 346,848

☐ Graue Literatur

A service of the **ZBW**



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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