Open Access Materials

In an effort to support the School’s dedication to OER initiatives, the Carey Library, as well as the Rutgers University Libraries (RU Library System), can provide assistance in identifying and adopting open access textbooks and materials for courses. Whether you refer to these resources as open textbooks, open educational resources (OER), or free materials for students, the higher education community is being encouraged to consider using these resources. A recent study by SRI International and Achieving the Dream emphasizes the benefits of OER, as well as the need for faculty to fully embrace OER in a college setting. Even though this study focused on community colleges, the conclusions made can be applied to any higher education setting. Broadly speaking, the research found that innovation is indeed the result of a faculty-driven decision to break down barriers to education and to democratize opportunities for access and participation in the creation of knowledge, especially for historically marginalized populations (Griffiths, Joshi, Pellerin & Wingard, 2022, p. 4).

There are numerous resources available for assisting faculty in either adopting open access textbooks or creating a list of multiple open access materials for students to use. Listed below are a few of these resources:

- Open Textbook Library: https://opencourseware.org/
- OER Commons: https://www.oercommons.org/
- Merlot: http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm
- OpenStax: https://openstax.org/
- Creative Commons: https://creativecommons.org/
- MERLOT: https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm
- Summer is Almost Here

The weather is getting warmer. The sun is shining and the flowers are blooming. As you make your summer plans, remember that the library is open during the summer season. Even with limited hours, the library is still ready to provide information literacy services, reference and research assistance, interlibrary loan services, course reserve requests, book circulation, and space for quiet study. Check out the Library’s website for complete resources and services, and for up-to-date hours.

SHARE YOUR RESEARCH WITH COLLEAGUES

Don’t forget! The Carey Library Research Minute would love to share the research being conducted by faculty and students in order to foster collaboration, inclusion, and collegiality. If you would like to share what you are currently working on, please let me know! The next issue will be published in September 2022.