LIBER 2024
Cyprus LIMASSOL
3-5 JULY

Pre-Conference Workshop 6

"Enhance the Discoverability of Open Textbooks"

LIBER Educational Resources Working Group

Welcome!

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Main structure of the workshop

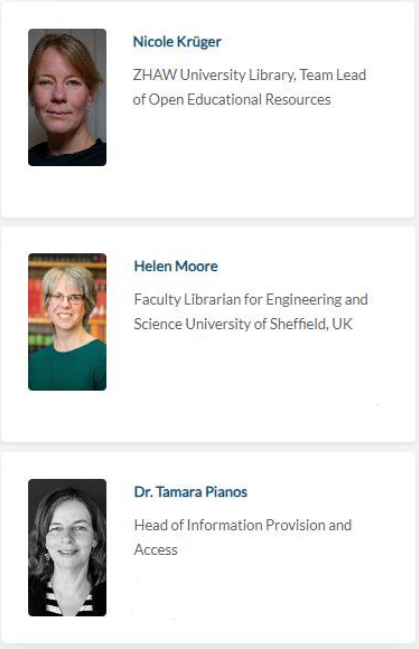
- Who we are
    - Our members and aims
    - Our focus
- WG outcomes and work packages
- Let’s work together
- Wrap up and feedback

Warm-up survey

Let’s break the ice by answering this quick survey

Introducing the Working Group

LIBER's Educational Resources working group aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources to staff and students. In the course of two years, from 2023-2024, the focus will be on promoting and advancing in the area of open textbooks.



Nicole Krüger

ZHAW University Library, Team Lead of Open Educational Resources

Helen Moore

Faculty Librarian for Engineering and Science University of Sheffield, UK

Dr. Tamara Pianos

Head of Information Provision and Access

OER definition

"Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open licence, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others".

https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources

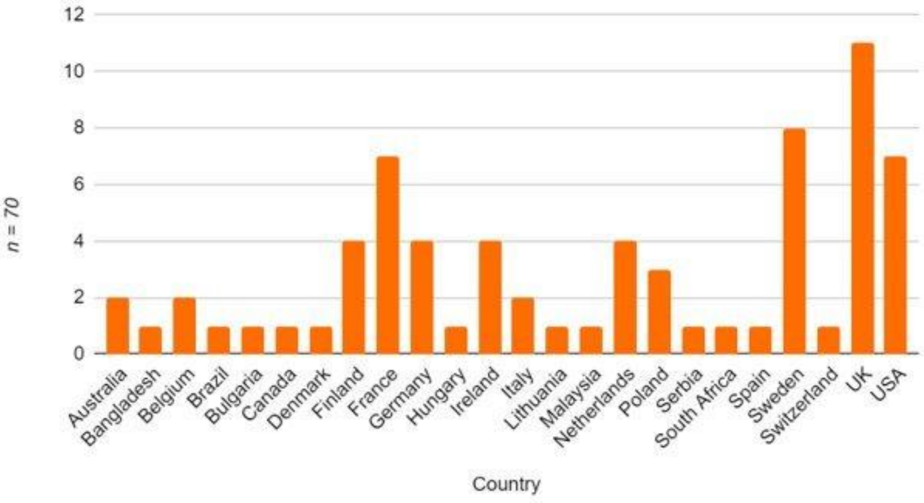
Focus on Open Textbooks

"An open textbook is a textbook licensed under an open licence and made available online to be freely used by students, teachers and members of the public. Many open textbooks are distributed in either print, e-book, or audio formats that may be downloaded or purchased at little or no cost".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_textbook

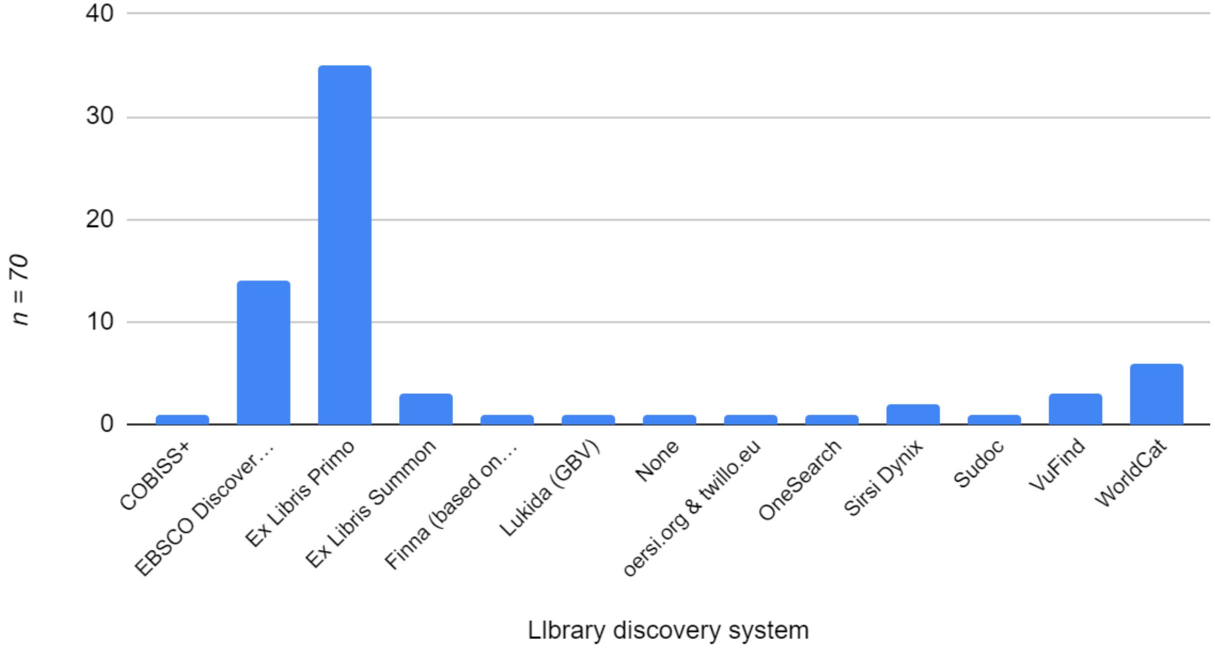
OER working group survey

- Distributed to Library community via LIBER members and mailing lists in October 2023
- 70 responses received from 24 countries

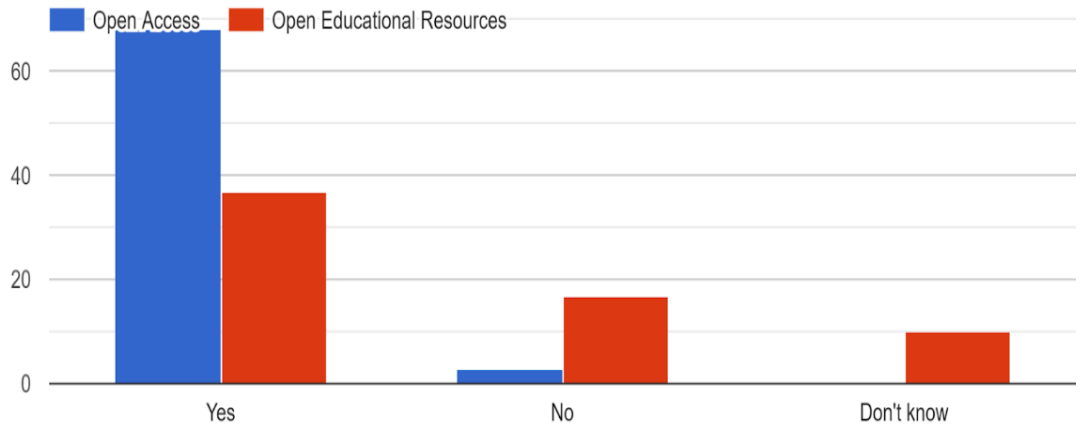


Survey question: In which country are you located?

Which discovery systems are you using?



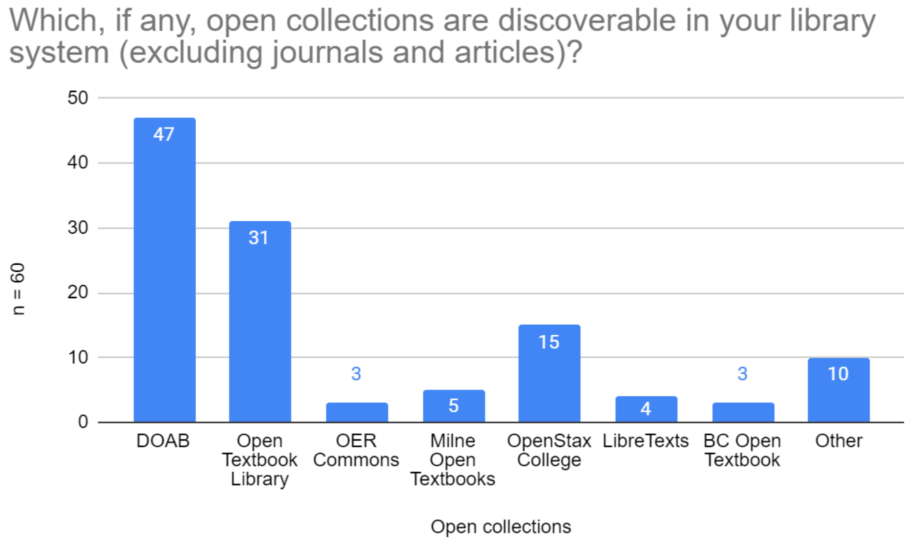
Do you include
OA and OER material?



Which types do you include?

- Books (including textbooks and monographs)
- Journal articles
- Videos
- Courseware
- Lecture notes
- Podcasts and audio
- Quiz material
- Digitised cultural heritage material
- Working papers
- Maps
- Conference papers
- Datasets
- Dissertations
- Images
- Reports

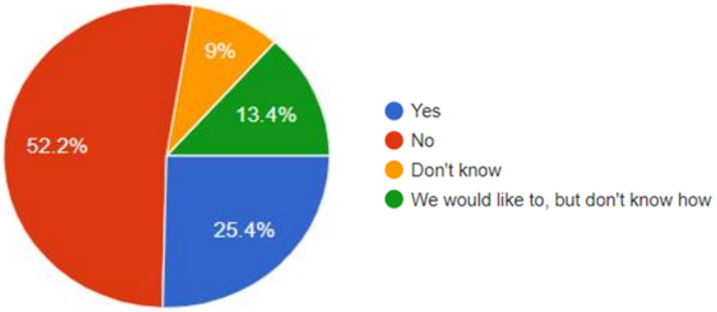
Which collections do you make discoverable?



"Other" included:

- Publisher OA book collections (Brill, Springer, T&F, Emerald)
- National OER repositories (eg https://aoe.fi)
- Subject repositories (eg www.econstor.eu)
- Institutional repositories
- Scholarly presses (eg MIT Press Direct to Open).

Harvesting collections

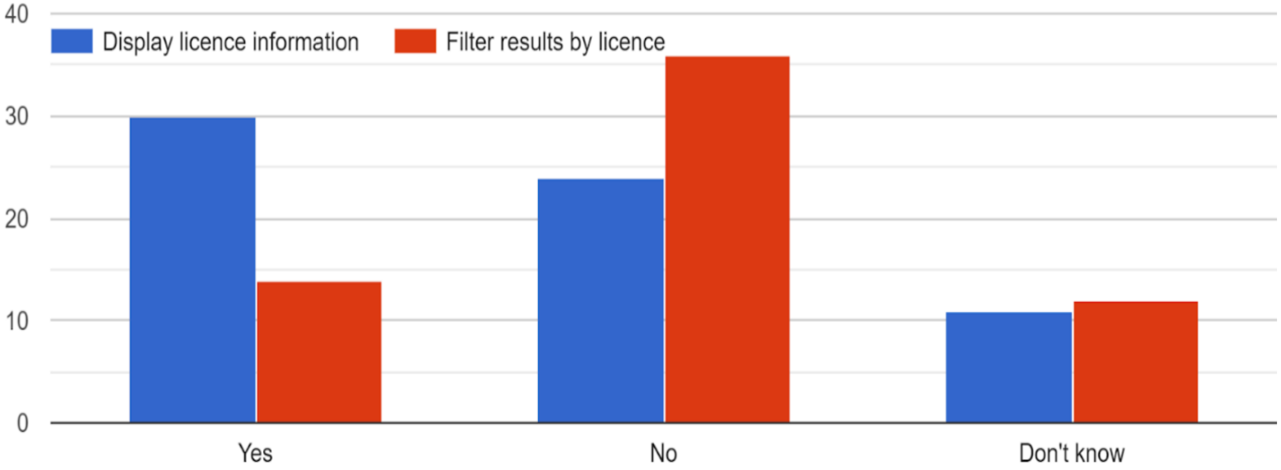


- 52% of institutions harvest and ingest book collections in their entirety.
- 25% are more selective, including only material that is aligned to their institution's discipline coverage.
- 13% expressed an interest in being able to be more selective over content but were unsure how.

Other places from where OER records are harvested include MERLOT, AU Press, Europeana, YouTube, OCLC WorldShare, Institutional Repositories, OASIS (https://oasis.geneseo.edu/), Library of Open Educational Resources (https://aoe.fi/) and Open Educational Resources Search Index (https://oersi.org/resources/).

Licence information

Survey question: Within your discovery system, is it possible to easily display the licence for any item and filter your results by licence?



Licensing and metadata issues (1/2)

Survey question: “What challenges have you faced when trying to make open educational resources more visible to your users through your discovery system?”

- Poor or incomplete metadata, including lack of clarity about licences.
- Staffing capacity - where MARC records are not available to be automatically harvested, extra staff time is required to make OERs discoverable.
- Discovery systems suppliers could improve the situation by improving OER metadata, including making licence information more visible and creating a category or tag that could be used for filtering.

Licensing and metadata issues (2/2)

Survey question: “What challenges have you faced when trying to make open educational resources more visible to your users through your discovery system?”

- Make more OERs available in link resolver knowledge bases.
- Language issues - lack of OER availability in some languages and staff time required for dealing with foreign language material.

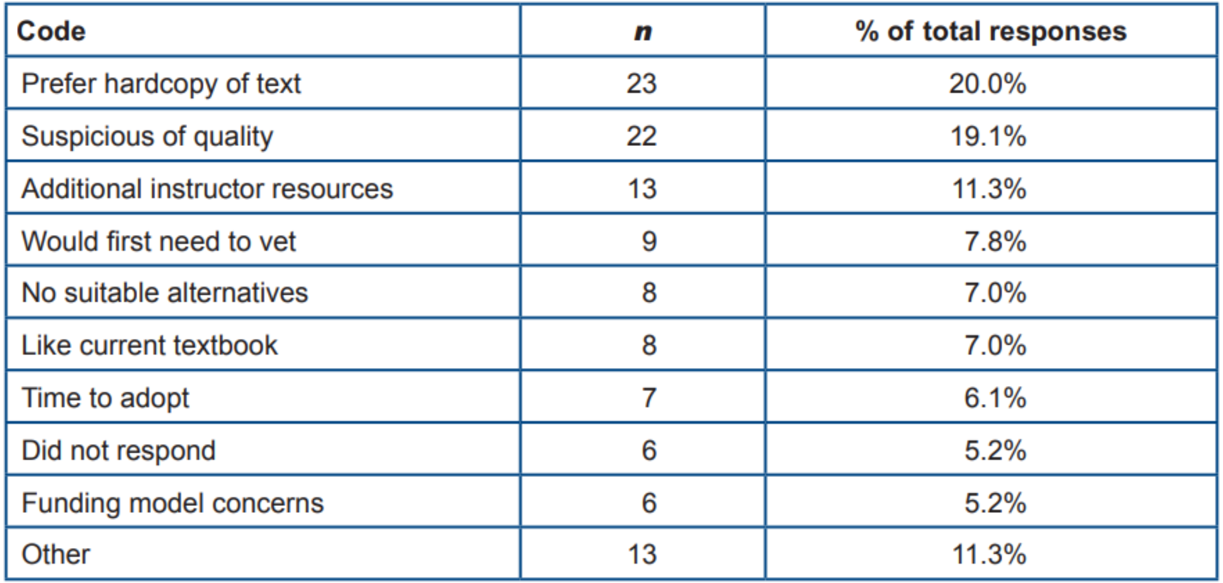
“OERs because of their less funded nature, lack the product placement, marketing, quality control and versioning/updating mechanisms, as well as the permanence of commercial content. This, including the lack of an additional supply chain (such as vendor provision of metadata and catalogue records), places barriers between their adoption, and fulfilment.”

Role of advocacy

“Engaging with individual educators and providing a multifaceted approach to supporting engagement with OER and/or OEP are key to innovating practice around curriculum provision and delivery” (Pitt 2020)

Libraries need to champion the use of open textbooks through a combination of **advocacy** and removal of as many **barriers** as possible.

Reasons why faculty don’t use OERs



Code	*n*	% of total responses
Prefer hardcopy of text	23	20.0%
Suspicious of quality	22	19.1%
Additional instructor resources	13	11.3%
Would first need to vet	9	7.8%
No suitable alternatives	8	7.0%
Like current textbook	8	7.0%
Time to adopt	7	6.1%
Did not respond	6	5.2%
Funding model concerns	6	5.2%
Other	13	11.3%

(Fischer 2020)

SPARC Report findings

"Resistance to change is prevalent across institutions and the challenge of overcoming it to generate buy-in is a consistent theme. 'Low adoption among educators', 'no buy-in at all from academic staff' and 'desire to work with traditional resources' were cited as specific challenges" (SPARC 2023, p24)

Principal issues

Outlined by Mićunović, Rako and Feldvari (2023):

- Not having enough time to conduct a thorough search
- Inadequate metadata
- Interoperability problems between platforms
- Functionality in search tools
- Insufficient user search skills

What can we do? (1/2)

- Highlight successful open textbook use - advantages of repurposing OERs to create teaching resources that meet pedagogical requirements.
- Good engagement needs to demystify licensing so that educators understand the flexibility of open textbooks.
- Good quality metadata, and supplementary material which makes clear the resource's structure.
- Consider what open content is available within your own institution’s discovery system.
- Use your communication channels and user groups to influence and lobby discovery system suppliers to make licensing information clearer and more visible. This includes the ability to search and filter by licence type.

What can we do? (2/2)

- As a library community, how can we support the development of open textbooks in languages other than English? Let the Working Group know about any non-English open textbook collections.
- Work with Open Access book platforms, indexers and providers to find the optimal ways for open textbooks to be included and made discoverable.

OAPEN proposal

- To support OERs in a European context with an established partner in open infrastructure.
- To create an efficient distribution of open textbooks to meet the needs of European institutions using the OAPEN technical environment.
- Develop guidance for inclusion criteria to improve the quality of open textbooks and associated metadata.

References

- Fischer, L. Open Praxis, vol. 12 issue 3, July–September 2020, pp. 399–415 (ISSN 2304-070X)
- Mi´cunovi´c, M.; Rako, S.; Feldvari, K. Open Educational Resources (OERs) at European Higher Education Institutions in the Field of Library and Information Science during COVID-19 Pandemic. Publications 2023, 11, 38. https://doi.org/10.3390/publications11030038
- Rebecca (Beck) Pitt, Katy Jordan, Beatriz de los Arcos, Robert Farrow & Martin Weller (2020) Supporting open educational practices through open textbooks, Distance Education, 41:2, 303-318, DOI: 10.1080/01587919.2020.1757411
- https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_textbook
- Good practice with OER survey October to November 2023
- SPARC Europe: European Network of OER Librarians. Open Education in European Libraries of Higher Education 2023. March 2024.

Discoverability and collection curation

GOAL: making open textbooks more easily discoverable and used through libraries – various benefits

Different approaches:

- Integration through interfaces
- Action through collection curation
- Combination of the approaches

Please note: QUALITY and RANKING

How can we enhance the discoverability of open textbook collections?

- Can textbooks be selected?
- Can open publications be selected?
- Is specific licence information available?
- Is a metadata field for licence information available?

EXLIBRIS VS EBSCO

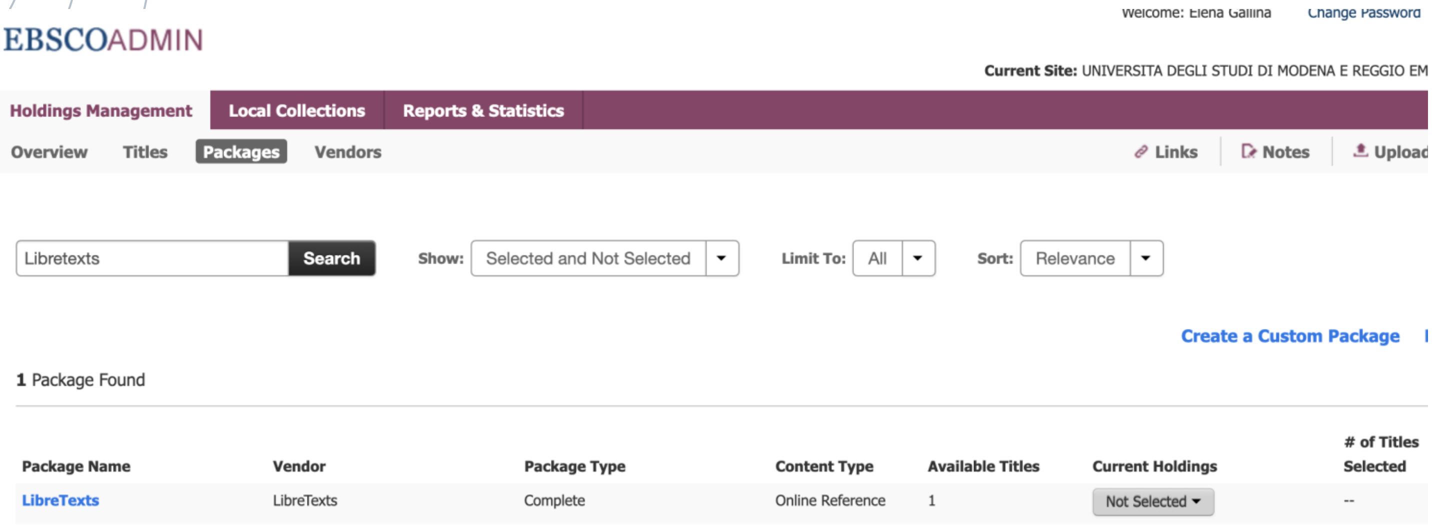
EXLIBRIS

- Ex Libris Primo Discovery System includes a variety of external collections. Among them are internationally renowned open textbook collections: check this list of full-text collections currently available in the Alma Community Zone
- The most important ot collections are: OpenStax, Open Textbook Library, LibreTexts, Merlot, Milne Open Textbooks, Galileo Open Learning Materials, …
- In order to make open textbook accessible and re-usable, it would be necessary to identify resources with open licenses from results list: ExLibris Primo DS does not allow to filter search results by CC licenses.

EBSCO

- EBSCO seems to be a little less transparent about the collections it includes. They curate their own "EBSCO Open Access E-Book Collection", which is a subject to fees.
- We found the availability of these OA ebooks collection for Unimore: OpenStax, Open Textbook Library, LibreTexts, Merlot, Milne Open Textbooks, Galileo Open Learning Materials, OAPEN, Open Edition Books, IntechOpen Books, JSTOR OA Books, OER Commons (textbooks)
- What can we do?

EBSCO Admin


EBSCOADMIN
Change Password
Holdings Management
Local Collections
Reports & Statistics
Overview
Titles
Packages
Vendors
Links
Notes
Upload
Search
Create a Custom Package

Welcome: Elena Gallina

Current Site: UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MODENA E REGGIO EM

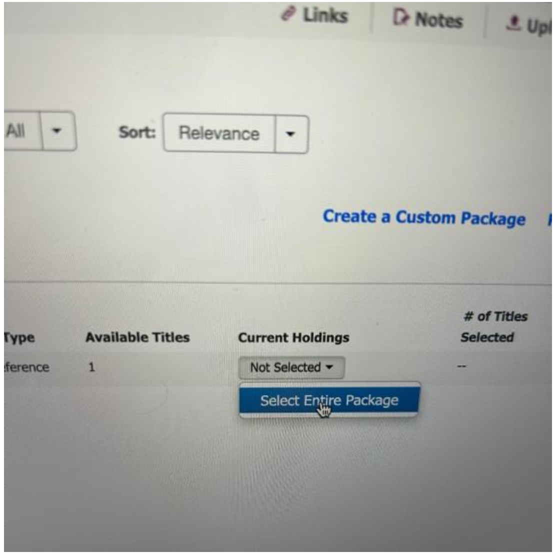
Libretexts

Show: Selected and Not Selected **Limit To:** All **Sort:** Relevance

1 Package Found

Package Name	Vendor	Package Type	Content Type	Available Titles	Current Holdings	# of Titles Selected
LibreTexts	LibreTexts	Complete	Online Reference	1	Not Selected	--

EBSCO Admin


Links
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All
Sort:
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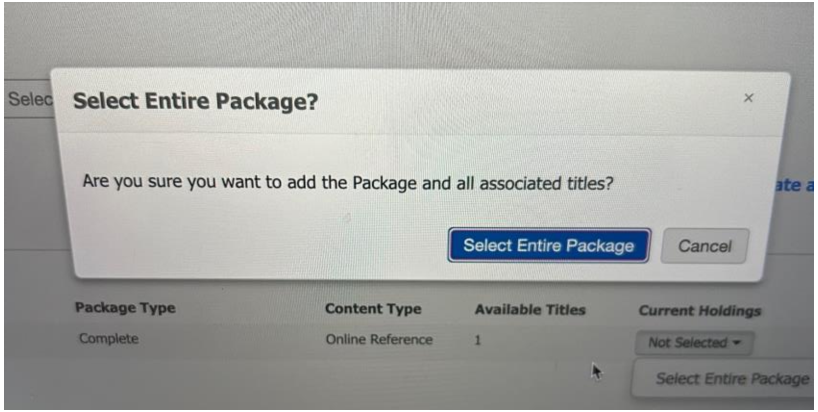
Create a Custom Package
Select Entire Package

Type	Available Titles	Current Holdings	# of Titles Selected
ference	1	Not Selected	--

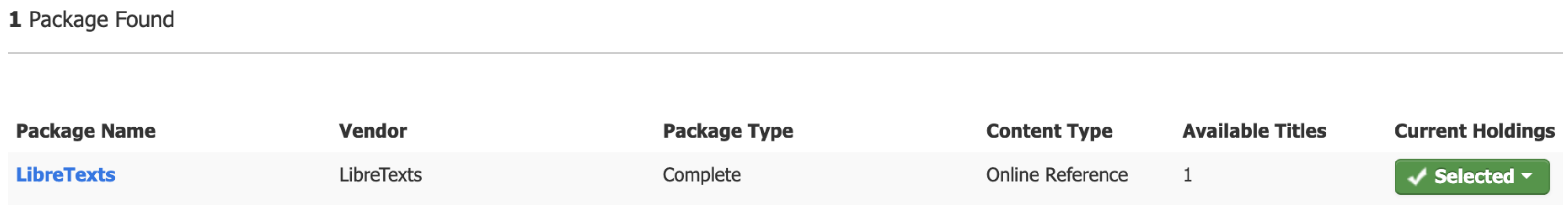

Selec
×
Select Entire Package
Cancel
Select Entire Package

Select Entire Package?

Are you sure you want to add the Package and all associated titles?

Package Type	Content Type	Available Titles	Current Holdings
Complete	Online Reference	1	Not Selected

EBSCO Admin



1 Package Found

Package Name	Vendor	Package Type	Content Type	Available Titles	Current Holdings
LibreTexts	LibreTexts	Complete	Online Reference	1	✓ Selected ▾

Open textbooks in DOAB

- Currently, open textbooks are in DOAB but so far, there are no selection criteria or filters for **textbooks** (e.g. a search for “textbook” or the German “Lehrbuch”)
- “Textbook” as a keyword and its appearance in the abstract.
- In general, there are quite a number of publications that are research on textbooks.
- In some cases, **metrics** are provided but not always.
  - ➢ Which metadata fields are needed? How to enhance them?

Examples of works from DOAB that appear on reading lists

- British Media Coverage of the Press Reform Debate : Journalists Reporting Journalism
- Decolonising the University
- Migration And Mobility In Britain Since The Eighteenth Century
- Music and the Functions of the Brain: Arousal, Emotions, and Pleasure
- Postcolonial contraventions: Cultural readings of race, imperialism and transnationalism
- The Datafied Society. Studying Culture through Data
- The Evolution of Rhythm Cognition: Timing in Music and Speech
- What Works in Conservation

Examples of more dynamic textbooks from different sources

- GitHub: Pro Git - different formats including HTML, PDF, EPUB, community project on GitHub in different languages, transparent planning of next versions in GitHub/Issues
- Português para principiantes - uses a lot of H5P functionality and it illustrates how Pressbooks can easily accommodate a variety of languages. It also has a CC BY-NC-SA and 8 download options.
- The author called it a "script": An introduction in atmospheric sciences for aeronautical engineers (Download as PDF only, CC BY-NC-SA 4.0, published in the institutional repository of ZHAW)
- The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers: it's CC BY, comes in different formats (epub, digital and print PDF, online version, web links) and has a version history.

The dialogue with OERSI

- OERSI team tried the integration of current DOAB content. Metadata would need to be implemented in order to select relevant content from current DOAB
- OERSI has a filter option for open textbooks
- OERSI open API can help reaching the goal of enhancing discoverability
- Examples of portals which use OERSI API: EconBiz, Twillo, Orca

Let's work together

- TABLE A – ADVOCACY (with Suzanne)

- TABLE B – LIBRARY INTERNAL TOPICS (with Elena)

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Thank you!