

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.

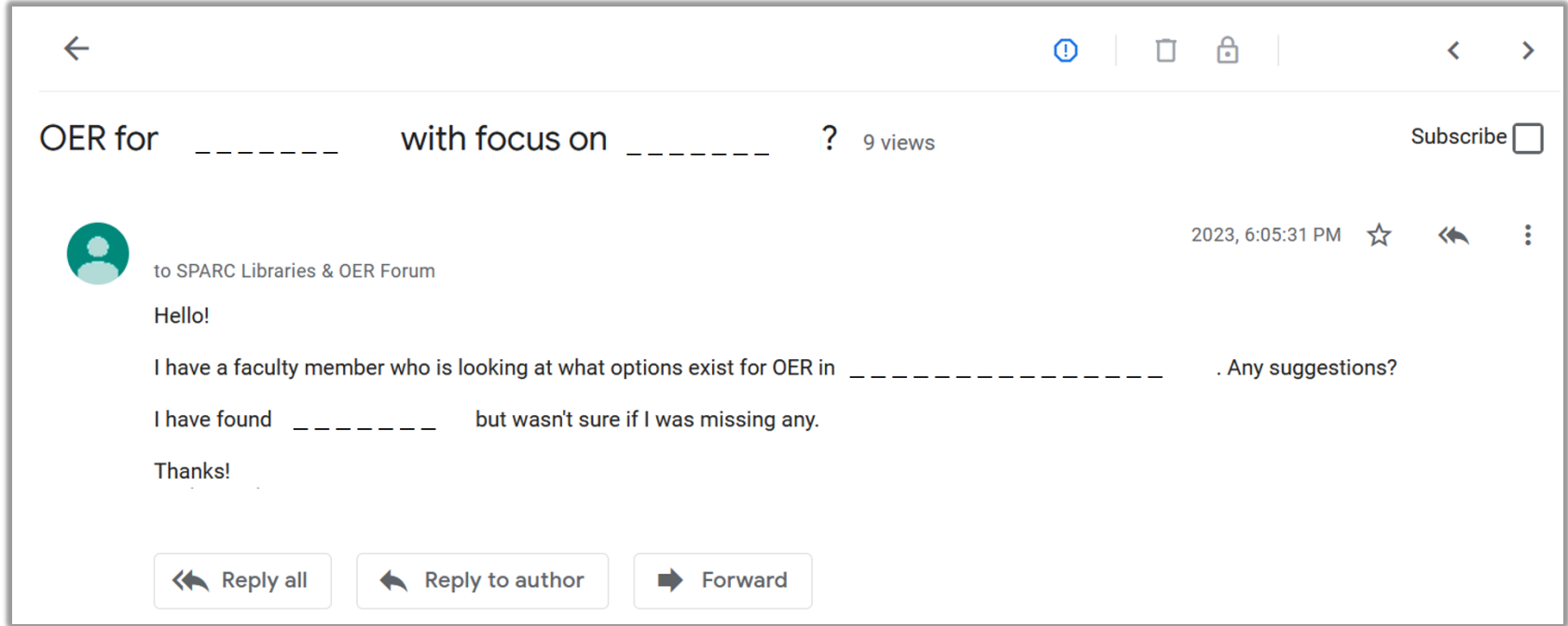
I find it hard, too

Yes, I agree

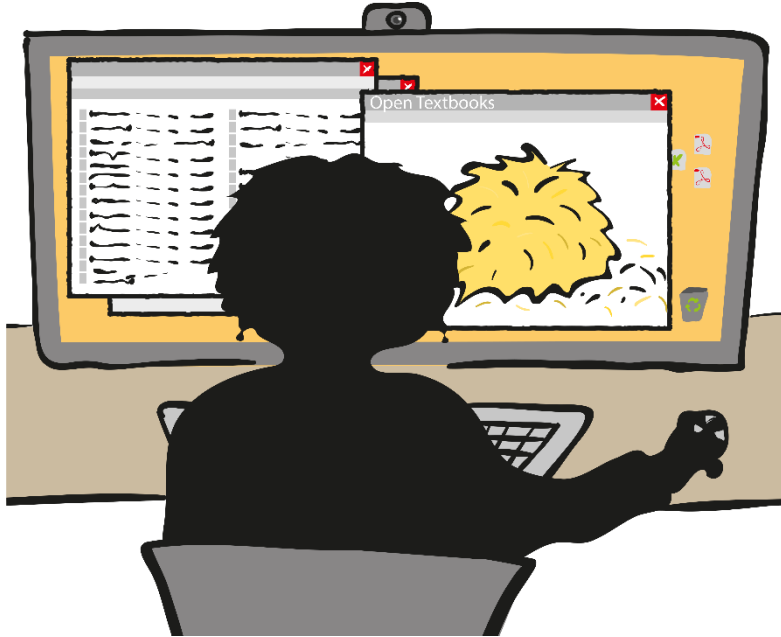
How can we include and present them?

How to find relevant OER?

Status Quo: Use collective wisdom



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

The screenshot shows the EconBiz search results page. The header includes the EconBiz logo and navigation links. The search bar contains the text "Search for publications". Below the search bar, there are filters for "All Fields", "Open Access only", "Advanced", "Search history", and "Favorites". The results are sorted by "Relevance" and show 1-10 of 55 publications. A yellow arrow points to the first publication, "Fundamentals of business" by Poff, Ron. The right sidebar shows filters for "Year of publication", "Subject", "Online availability", and "Type of publication". The "Online availability" filter shows "Free" selected with 1,063 results. The "Type of publication" filter shows "Textbook" selected with 440,214 results. A yellow arrow points to the "Textbook" filter. The bottom right corner shows a chat bubble icon and a logo for "A service of the ZBW".

ECONBIZ
Find Economic Literature.

A-Z | Beta | About EconBiz | News | Thesaurus (STW) | Research Skills | Help

Publications Events

Search for publications Search

☐ Retain my current filters

☒ All Fields ☐ Open Access only ☐ Advanced ☐ Search history Favorites

You are here: [Home](#) / Search:

Showing 1 - 10 of 55 Sort Relevance

1 **Fundamentals of business**
Poff, Ron - Pamplin College of Business - 2023 - Fourth edition
freely available Full text | More access options

2 **Introduction to financial analysis**
Bigel, Kenneth S. - 2022
freely available Full text | More access options

3 **Project management : navigating the complexity with a systematic approach**
Oguz, Abdullah - 2022
freely available Full text | More access options

4 **Advanced macroeconomics : an easy guide**
Campante, Filipe R.; Sturzenegger, Federico; Velasco, ... - 2021
freely available Full text | More access options

5 **Customer centric strategy**
Shields, Kerri - 2021
freely available Full text | More access options

× Delete all filters | 2 applied filters

Year of publication

Subject

Online availability

☐ All ☒ Free 1,063 ☐ Undetermined

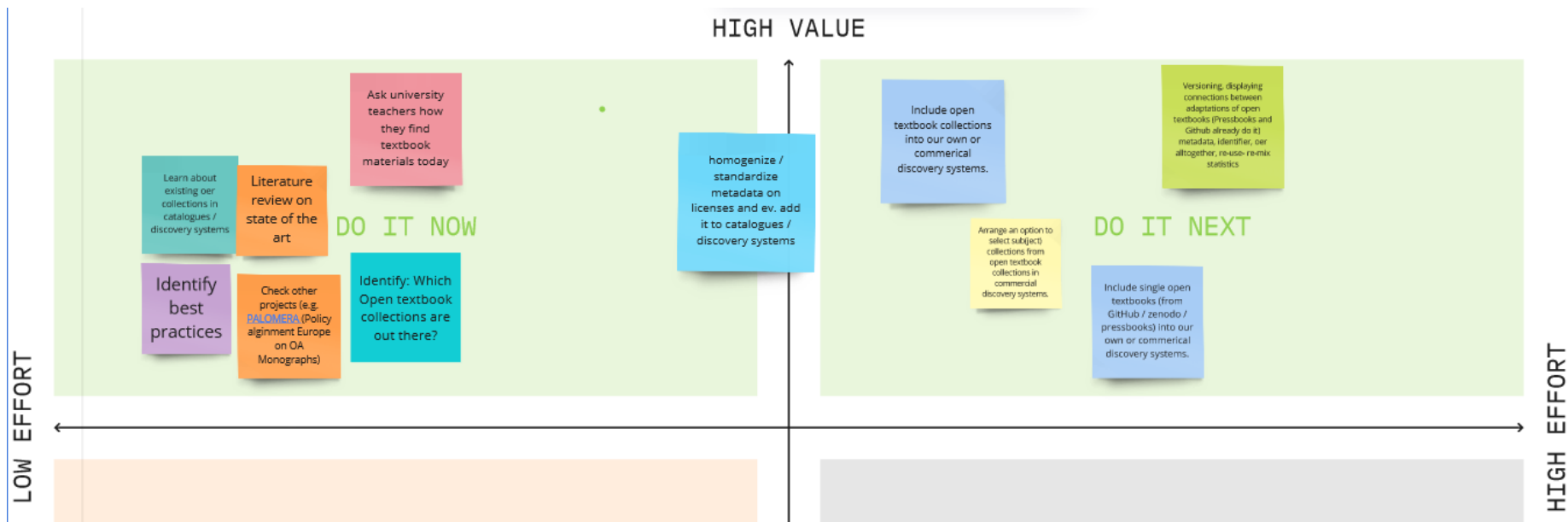
Type of publication

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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