Unlocking Knowledge at TUS: Advancing OER Awareness, Access, and Collaboration

Name of Institution/Organisation

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest

Who led the initiative?

Ms. Celine Peignen, Head Librarian TUS Midlands, project lead
Ms. Maura Flynn, OER Librarian, TUS Library
Dr. Nuala Harding, Head of the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Development (CPID)

Date and timeframe of the initiative

2023-current, ongoing.

Note: This project is building on earlier OER projects in TUS.

What was the reach of the initiative?

- TUS Library has delivered 170 information literacy sessions, inclusive of OER, in the 2023/2024 academic year.
- Incorporating OER and Open Access resources into these sessions enables us to broaden our reach significantly, with 2720 student and 275 TUS staff participants, during this period.
- The information provided below reflects dedicated OER educational and dissemination opportunities carried out in TUS and through the Developing Open Educational Resources for the Scholarship of Learning and Teaching (DOERs in SoTL) project.

Aims/Objectives

The aims of our work, both in TUS and within our project partner DOERs sites (DkIT, Maynooth University and SETU) include:

- To raise awareness of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices (OEP).
- To audit the level of use in each institution.
- To develop and design training material to promote OER and encourage their use.
- To empower staff who teach to develop OER and encourage collaboration.

Rationale and Identified Needs

- The concept of OER has long been advocated for, as is evident from the publication of the Cape Town Open Education Declaration (2007) onwards. In Ireland, the National Forum has advocated for Open Education, which encompasses OER, since 2014.
- There is clear alignment between OER and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly: Quality Education (SDG 4); Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10); and Partnerships (SDG 17).
- Potential benefits of OER to our university include: reducing financial barriers to learning; creating inclusive, sustainable and accessible learning resources; enhancing the library collections by adding a variety of Open material and future proof the offerings; and enhancing student engagement and retention.

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)

Our work aligns closely with international and national priority areas, including:

- The UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly: Quality Education (SDG 4).
- The National Action Plan for Open Research, as the remit includes OER.
- A Sectoral White Paper by Jhangiani, R., Farrelly, T., Ó Súilleabháin, G. on behalf of NTUTORR, in 2024 (Open Education Practices in Higher Education: Focusing on Responsiveness, Innovation & Inclusivity)
- OER aligns with TUS value statements, as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2023-2026: inclusive; supportive; ambitious; innovative; sustainable; and collaborative. Similarly, OER will support strategic priorities, including: communication, technology and digitation; and sustainable development.

TUS
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre, An tIarthar Láir
Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
		Digital Transformation	Students
Coordinate	Curriculum and Assessment	Education for Sustainable Development	Staff
	Innovation in Teaching	Academic Integrity	Wider community
Create	Professional Development	Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	
Celebrate & Continue	Research and Evaluation		
		Student Engagement and Partnership	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	