# Improving Access, Affordability, and Achievement with OER

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> MARYLAND OPEN SOURCE TEXTBOOK Initiative









#### Kirwan Center Mission

The Center leverages the power of multi-institutional collaboration to increase access, affordability, and achievement for Maryland students.

Informed by the diversity of Maryland's postsecondary institutions, findings from the learning sciences, and capabilities of emerging technologies, the Center leads statewide efforts to implement, evaluate, and scale and sustain innovations aimed at student success.





"...Our school system will be completely changed inside of ten years."







#### "Undreamed of possibilities for education..."

Farrand, 1931



"Will resurrect the aural instructional techniques employed so successfully by famous teachers of the past like Socrates!" Tyson, 1931



"There will be vast universities of the air, with courses taught by the national leaders of their fields..."

Waller, 1934



"...television is an efficient and inexpensive way to satisfy the nation's instructional needs."

Jones, 1957



"...will provide students access to the personal services of a tutor as well-informed and responsive as Aristotle."

Suppes, 1976

# Big claims

#### The greatest thing since sliced bread!

## Rush to adoption

With no foundation in existing research.

## Implementation difficulties

Is it even practical?

## Then the research trickles in...

No significant differences.









#### Baumol's "Cost Disease"

Productivity increase in industry group A Rise in nominal wages in industry group A Decrease in costs per unit of output in industry group A

Technological Innovation

> Little or no effect on productivity in industry group B

Rise in nominal wages in industry group B Increase in costs per unit of output in industry group B

## That's depressing.

How do we break this cycle?









## What is the practical problem?

How to do more with less.



#### "Non-traditional" student?

- Over 25.
- Dependents.
- First generation.
- Financially independent.
- Took time off before college.
- Went to a community college.
- Attends part time/works full time.



### What do we know about the tools?

Understanding the actions made possible.







Jacques Carelman


## How do we use the tools?

No more business as usual.









## cMOOC

Virtual, international & "massive" space where students and faculty share & critique each other's projects, build community around doing.

Part-physical space where a teacher helps guide students in authentic, project-based applications of the skills and concepts introduced in the xMOOC.

F2F

# xMOOC

Space where students are introduced to core skills/concepts and can do light application.





**Using Open Education Resources** 

IN 2015-16 THE U. OF MARYLAND **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GOT RID OF THESE--COURSE MATERIALS ARE NOW ONLINE** & FREE









The application of our knowledge about tools, techniques, or systems to solve practical problems.

### Open educational resources (OER)

are resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their **free use and repurposing by others**.



#### Open is Not Just Free



Retain	<ul> <li>Make, own, and control your own copy of the content</li> </ul>
Reuse	<ul> <li>Use the content in its unaltered form</li> </ul>
Revise	<ul> <li>Adapt, adjust, modify, improve, or alter the content</li> </ul>
Remix	<ul> <li>Combine the original or revised content with other OER to create something new</li> </ul>
Redistribute	<ul> <li>Share your copies of the original content, revisions, or remixes with others</li> </ul>









### We need...

- Digital rights and accessibility compliance services.
- Support for curation/discoverability.
- More OER materials at higher levels.
- Support for teaching and learning with OER.
- A transition plan (bookstores closing!).
- OER quality review.
- Faculty incentives.



"Improvement in post secondary education will require converting teaching from a solo sport to a community-based research activity."

> -- Herb Simon Nobel Laureate and Professor Carnegie Mellon University







#### MISSION

M.O.S.T. supports long-term, statewide scaling and sustainability of fully accessible, openly licensed course materials by providing the collaborative infrastructure Maryland's public higher education institutions need to support effective and efficient OER adoption, adaptation, and creation.

M.O.S.T. is dedicated to empowering and rewarding faculty who capitalize on the opportunities afforded by openly licensed materials to optimize student learning through continuous quality improvement.



#### GOAL

To achieve its mission, M.O.S.T. will support statewide scaling and sustainable use of OER, leveraging the affordances of openly licensed materials to increase access, affordability and achievement for all students' success by...

- shifting the conversation about OER from being just about affordability to, more holistically, being about student success;
- supporting effective and efficient adoption, creation, and adaptation of OER to optimize student achievement;
- developing processes, models, and reward structures for sustaining the work over time.



# Parting thoughts.

It's not really about OER...



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