Using LibGuides or ePortfolio as Hosting Platforms for ZTC Courses.

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Using LibGuides or ePortfolio as Hosting Platforms for ZTC Courses

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John Jay College of Criminal Justice

One of the colleges of the City University of New York (CUNY).

11,000 student FTEs; 9,800 are undergraduates taking a full course load.

400 full time, 740 adjunct faculty.

Federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution

Located in Manhattan between Central Park and the Hudson river.
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of New York

The Jay Walk is a unique roof-top outdoor environment perched high above the City streets of NYC.

Founded in 1964, initially as a training institution for in-service police officers, John Jay College of Criminal Justice quickly developed into a liberal arts college, but with the financial crisis of the 1970s, recommitted to concentrating on criminal justice. Justice has always been an integral part of our mission.

We promise affordability and quality, on the college homepage
OER POLL: Rate Yourself

1. Novice
2. Emerging
3. Pretty Good
4. Expert

How our OER project came about

Governor Cuomo allocated $4m to CUNY for AY 2018. Followed by $8m between CUNY & SUNY for AY 2019.

Funds are distributed by the CUNY central Office of Library Services which put out a request for proposals. Grant money was allocated to John Jay based on our proposal.

AT JJ, the Teaching and Learning Center, Office of Undergraduate Studies, and the Library are working together. Our project PI is the Director of Educational Partnerships and General Education (an admin in the Office of Undergraduate Studies).

This is the first formal OER initiative at the John Jay College

(though of course some faculty were already using OER and/or e-reserves, thus offering zero textbook cost courses).
What is John Jay doing?

• Delivering an eight-workshop OER conversion seminar, with stipends for participating faculty. The focus is on course design, pedagogy and selection of open/alternative materials. In addition, the seminars highlight various platforms for hosting the course, so as the students have easy access.

• Creating an open access / zero cost John Jay College Justice eReader.
  • Using an editorial board composed of JJ faculty, the goal is to bring together a collection of key texts on the topic of justice, broadly defined, that will function as an intellectual hub for conversations about justice among undergraduate students and their teachers.

• We hired an OER librarian (part-time).

The goal of the project: Eliminate textbook costs for students

Our library’s approach:
  Pragmatic rather than ideological

Our agenda includes educating faculty on the depth, range and quality of library licensed materials i.e.

  Alternative Educational Resources
  This was key to getting librarian buy-in

In addition to advocating for OER, we encourage faculty to consider adopting library licensed materials.

Classroom faculty are free to choose what and how they teach, within the parameters of college-approved course description & learning goals.
Our definitions

Open Educational Resources (OER) are digital teaching & learning resources licensed for no-financial-cost re-use.

Alternative Educational Resources (AER) = Library licensed digital content.

A “Z” course is a course with no textbook costs for students; tagged by the registrar as a Zero Textbook Costs.

“Free” means no or very low financial cost to students.
How will you share your chosen content with your students?

Create a “Virtual Place”: Like a Mini-website

Various platforms/CMS applications can be used to publish (host) the course:

- e.g. Blackboard, ePortfolio, WordPress/CUNY Academic Commons, LibGuides.

Let’s take a look at two platforms, so you get an idea of what I’m talking about!
LibGuides

- LibGuides is an easy-to-use, commercial content management system deployed at thousands of libraries worldwide.
- Librarians use it to curate knowledge and share information, organize class and subject specific resources, and to create and manage websites.

A typical librarian created Libguide

http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/sociology

Sociology: Articles

By Ellen Sexton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociology literature databases</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Review journals

- Annual Review of Sociology
- Contemporary Sociology (a Journal of Reviews)

Scholarly vs. Popular articles

This 3 minute video from the Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University talks about the differences between popular and scholarly articles. It also mentions trade publications.
We explored using LibGuides to host OER/AER courses

A LibGuide developed for Art 101, an OER course
https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/oer/Art101
Content curated by Prof Erin Thompson
Another LibGuide hosted course – this one includes links to library licensed e-resources

[https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/oer/CJBA380Piza](https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/oer/CJBA380Piza)

Content curated by Prof Eric L. Piza.

... includes links to library licensed e-resources
We also explored using ePortfolio to host OER/AER courses

Digication ePortfolio

- Commercial software widely used in colleges
- ePortfolio is usually used as a place for students to showcase their academic journey throughout the four years, by documenting learning. Example of a student ePortfolio:
  - https://johnjay.digication.com/selinaliac1/home-1
- “an engaging environment for active learning, and enabling faculty to enhance their pedagogical strategies, to enabling student career readiness, faculty development, data-driven planning for institutional improvement and accreditation reporting.”
An ePortfolio created by a JJ student

Examples of OER/AER courses hosted on ePortfolio
An ePortfolio used to host the ART 101 OER course

https://johnjay.digication.com/introduction-to-world-art/home-1/published

Developed & content curated by Prof Erin Thompson

https://johnjay.digication.com/honors_seminar/Brooklyn_We_Go_Hard/published

Honors Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric by Carmen Kynard, Ph.D.
The Ideal Platform is...

- cloud-based
- very easy to use (create, edit and access) with an aesthetically appealing interface
- Free, or, already licensed & supported by the college
- Accounts should be controlled by faculty
- Uses technology to promote sound pedagogy
- In the spirit of OER, content should be open to viewing by all

Building the OER Course

- A new use for ePortfolio and LibGuides
- Both Platforms:
  - Can build the course and revise constantly
    - Are dynamic...not static like a commercial text. If things change in the field or if you change your mind about something, it is easy to revise the course or even pick a new zero-cost textbook.
  - Great organizational tool
  - Once you get started adding your content, it is very visually motivating!
    - MUCH better than a pile of papers on your desk!
Advice to faculty on setting up an OER Site

- Aim to create a “course package”
  - Everything the student needs to succeed in one place easy to access
  - Many faculty use Blackboard mainly for attendance & grading, and link to other platforms for content.

- Start with a good Syllabus
  - Identify and document the learning outcomes of the course
  - The learning outcomes determine what you teach, not the textbook.
  - Also needed: class policies, contact information, grading explanation, readings, topics, lectures and assignments

- Find the course content that is zero cost to the student (OER or Library resources)
  - Has someone else created a similar, complete OER course or textbook? Check out OER Repositories and College OER LibGuides. Look for the Creative Commons logo. Look for library materials like ebooks, articles and streaming videos to fill in gaps.

Which Platform to Use to Host the Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform for Content Repository</th>
<th>Pedagogy</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Blackboard                      | More instructor-centered, but has some social learning tools | • Not open  
  • Some faculty hate Bb; it is rigid | • Bb is an LMS  
  • Students and faculty familiarity |
| LibGuides                       | Instructor-centered; just a repository; no student posting or reflection; little focus on pedagogy | • Library owned 
  • Library controls access and accounts 
  • Need to set up “Groups” and make faculty editors | • Nice interface  
  • Easy to learn and edit  
  • Easy to post all file formats |
| New Digication ePortfolio       | Student-centered: Promotes inquiry, discovery, creation, critique and showcase-based pedagogy | • Does not include a robust LMS system 
  • Files are not as easy to post and view as LibGuides | • Student and faculty own their accounts  
  • Pedagogy focused  
  • Very visual and aesthetic |
Not Perfect…but ePortfolio Focuses on Pedagogy!

Studies suggest that self-reflection plays an important role in academic achievement and performance...One way to encourage reflection and metacognition is through the development of an ePortfolio (Teaching Commons, Stanford University, 2014).¹

And the winner is:
ePortfolio


Can open pedagogy encompass a commercial platform?

“Open pedagogy uses OER as a jumping-off point for remaking our courses so that they become not just repositories for content, but platforms for learning, collaboration, and engagement with the world outside the classroom.”


E-Portfolio can be used for learning, collaboration and engagement ....
Eportfolio at JJ is not widely used; Only 20% of faculty responding to a tech survey have used it. In contrast, 84% of surveyed faculty at JJ use Blackboard

Q13 How satisfied are you with Digication's E-Portfolio app?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Satisfied</td>
<td>3.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>10.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Dissatisfied</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never Use</td>
<td>77.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using ePortfolio at JJ: faculty technology use survey, spring 2018.

What else could be considered in choosing a platform?

How does the platform function on different devices? Is the display responsive to different screen sizes? Is there a fully functioning app for students?

Does it work well with screen readers for the visually challenged?

What platforms are already being used at your institution? Faculty may prefer to work with a platform they are already familiar with.

How committed are you/your faculty to the ideology of open? Some may wish to avoid commercial platforms altogether, even if already licensed by their institution.

Is it reliable? What about down time – scheduled or not?

Evidence driven assessment! We have not done any to date....

AND ???? Your thoughts???
Contact Information

• Presenting today: Ellen Sexton esexton@jjay.cuny.edu
  • Associate Professor, Lloyd Sealy Library,
  • John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

• Not present today, our OER librarian at John Jay College:
  Vee Herrington, Ph.D.
  vherrington@jjay.cuny.edu
  • OER Librarian, Adjunct Associate Professor,
  • John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York