Open Educational Practices in Kyrgyzstan: Connecting Partners and Programs

Jyldyz Bekbalaeva, Library Director
Janylai Keldibekova, E-Services Librarian
Aisuluu Namasbek Kyzy, Instructor, Sociology
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Anita Walz, OER, Copyright & Scholarly Communication Librarian
VIRGINIA TECH
Agenda

- OER in Kyrgyzstan
- OER activities at American University of Central Asia
- OER, ©, and teaching practices survey
- Q&A
OER in Kyrgyzstan

Collaboration

Educational Institutions

Agencies

Local Organizations

Agenda, Policy, Copyright Reform, National Repository
## National Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA</th>
<th>LIFELONG LEARNING, ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLICY</td>
<td>-STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-NATIONAL CONCEPT OF E-LEARNING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPYRIGHT</td>
<td>-MARRAKESH TREATY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-CREATIVE COMMONS, PUBLIC FUNDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPOSITORY</td>
<td>-700 TEXTBOOKS &amp; CURRICULUM MATERIALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-600 DISSERTATIONS; 1000 RARE BOOKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>OER Development and Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>OER Awareness &amp; Promotion, Open Repositories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>OER Awareness &amp; Promotion, Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors</td>
<td>Grants, Training, Capacity Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collaboration

- Copyright reform - Library Consortium, EIFL Consortium, Soros Kyrgyzstan
- Fulbright Specialist Program - AUCA, Virginia Tech, U.S. Department of State
- OER Panel - Soros Kyrgyzstan, AUCA, EIFL Consortium
- OER Summer Camp - University of Central Asia, Soros Kyrgyzstan
- OER Countrywide Survey - AUCA, Virginia Tech
Collaboration

ILIM ELIM OER PORTAL

Кечмөн таануу

Назикбек Кыдырмышев
Эл аралык жогорку медицина мектеби

Жаштар социологиясы

Самар Сыргабаев
Бишкек Гуманитардык Университети
Open Textbook Pilot at AUCA
The project started in summer 2017, with library initiated meetings with faculty to discuss and to introduce OER, and to help faculty adopt available openly licensed resources.

OER is one of the main core readings of the course “Sociology for non sociologist”.
At the beginning of the academic year, librarians held a workshop for students to introduce them to the concept of open education and to train them on using different formats of open materials.
At the end of the course, students and faculty were surveyed regarding their teaching and learning experience while using open educational resources. The discussion of the experiences will help develop further strategies to popularize open educational resources across disciplines.

The same course will be taught in FALL 2018, so necessary changes and updates will be made to the syllabus.

Total Number of students surveyed: 41
Results

51% of the students indicated that use OER only for General Sociology course

66% of surveyed students answered that it was easy to navigate through OER that they used for their class.

70% think that OER’s benefits are downloadable and online source

63% would like to use OER in other courses

Comments

“I like the idea of having access to free reliable books. It would be great to have some of them in printed version”

“It would be great to have another presentation on how we can access OER. Are there any electronic journals with scientific publications?”
Necessary adjustments for next academic year

- To track the changes in perception of OER among students, we would like to have the survey two times in the semester (beginning and end of semester)
- Conduct more workshops on OER for students

Future plans

- Integrate OER across all disciplines in AUCA (on the level of introductory courses)
- Conduct workshops for AUCA Faculty
- Conduct workshops for local universities
Country-wide baseline survey
Research Questions

1) Curriculum resources currently in use

2) Teaching methods/pedagogies in use

3) Awareness of regarding CC licenses, OER, Kyrgyz Copyright Law

4) Can libraries be helpful regarding ©, CC, OER?
Methods & Survey Instrument

- 1 month (October 2017)
- Online survey (choice of Russian or English)
- 120 Faculty, administrators, librarians invited
- 33 questions

Beliefs about effective teaching -- “What do you believe are the three most important things you do in the classroom that help students learn?”

Reported frequency of use of class activities [Grasha (1994) Teaching Styles]
  Expert + Formal Authority / Personal Model / Facilitator / Delegator

Blooms Taxonomy

(Survey instrument is appended to the journal article.)
Study Participants

120 invited

35 respondents who actually teach at higher education institutions

   +5 who do not teach (topics 3 & 4 only)

Disciplinary diversity: English, Computer Science, Education, Economics, Mathematics

Geographic dispersion: Weighted toward private/intergov, capital city and the north
Findings & Discussion

- Curriculum resources & teaching methods/styles
- Propensity for Kyrgyz adoption of OEP
  - Clear definition of OER (vs. free online) & introducing Open Pedagogy
  - OEP may prove transformational for post-soviet practices & non-symbolic edu credentials
  - Professional development opportunities needed (among librarians & others)
  - More exploration needed:
    - Propensity for adoption of OEP across levels and disciplines
    - Instructor aspirations, cultural factors, incentives present in teaching & learning
    - Collaboration among Kyrgyz institutions of higher education

Discussion

Thank you for attending!