Open Pedagogy Through Community-Directed, Student-Led Partnerships

Establishing CURE (Community-University Research Exchange) at Temple University Libraries

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Roadmap

1. History of Openness at Temple U
2. Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)
3. An Openness Intervention/Innovation
4. Establishing the Program
Our institution focused almost entirely on issues related to affordable learning materials and the adoption of open textbooks.
One survey found that as many as 64% of students do not buy course textbooks due to their prohibitive and burdensome cost.

Another 42% of students said the cost of textbooks affected their decisions about course selection.

The high cost of textbooks are not only prohibiting students from purchasing course materials, but also having a negative impact on student success and outcomes.

(Florida Virtual Campus Distance Learning & Student Services, 2018 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey Executive Summary, 2018)
Our Campus Context

“Temple is a place where people can get college degrees even if they weren’t born into wealth. That means when a student falls short, they can’t expect their family to take care of it. That’s why we need to help each other”

-Sara Goldrick-Rab, 2018

Temple University Libraries’ Textbook Affordability Project

A grant based initiative that awards faculty anywhere up to $1,500 for replacing costly educational resources such as textbooks with materials available through the Temple Libraries or Open Educational Resources (OER)
Textbook affordability is not a panacea for the trend toward the commodification of education and the privatization of scholars’ research outputs.
Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)

Community Organizations Express Research Need

Library Captures Need and Frames as a Research Question

Students Select from a Project Bank
Inspired by QPIRG McGill & Concordia

In Canada, PIRGS are at the epicentre of student activism on campus and in communities.
CURE empowers students to choose projects that are not only appropriate to their field(s) of study but also relate to their personal commitments or interests, and build on existing community engagements.
Freire's banking model of education
Freire's banking model of education

Students are engaged holistic actors with complex sets of needs and interests.
Library facilitates conversations on openness in the information lifecycle with students and faculty.
Commodification of Education and the Privatization of Scholarship
Commodification of Education and the Privatization of Scholarship

Finding alternatives to the neoliberal model of the university
Community organizations are the experts on the needs of their constituents.
University as an ivory tower
University as an ivory tower

Openness means targeting the insularity of the academic institution vis-a-vis the communities where we find ourselves.
Community-Engaged Learning
Community-Engaged Learning

Community-Driven Research
1. Establish a working group within the library with cross-functional expertise
2. Identify partner community groups
3. Consider what support community organizations will need to curate research questions
4. Identify faculty and campus partners and classes that can promote CURE
5. Establish a web presence
CURE recognizes both students and community organizations as already being politicized, organized and connected. This project seeks to foreground the value in the work already being done by these core constituents and connect them with library and faculty input, facilitation, and support.
Thanks!

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