TRENDS IN OER ADOPTION AND AWARENESS IN US K-12 CLASSROOMS

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BACKGROUND
Bay View Analytics offers a comprehensive suite of consulting services in survey design and statistical research. Our services build on nearly two decades of research and survey design, sampling, and statistical analysis expertise.

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Over a Decade of Research on OER Awareness

Survey asked about OER awareness


Higher Ed

K-12

COVID-19

Today

Planned

Released Sep 6!

Over 35,000 respondents across all our reports.

All Reports available at BayViewAnalytics.com/OER
SURVEYS AIM TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF OER

Goals of Surveys

• To understand the role of OER in Higher Education and K-12
• To quantify perceptions and awareness of OER including its open licensing (e.g., Creative Commons)

Respondents

• Admins, Faculty, Teachers, and Chief Academic Officers
• Nationally representative for geography and type of institution

Project supported by

Bay View Analytics®
DIGITAL USE & PERCEPTIONS
K-12 Classrooms are Almost All In-Person

- Just 8% of teachers report any instruction that is not 100% in-person
- Return to the classroom was swift – almost all classrooms were back for 2021
Digital Textbooks are Commonly Used in K-12

- 72% of teachers require a textbook for their classrooms, over half offering in both formats
- Print and digital textbooks are being offered at the same proportion
- 9% drop in print-only from last year
Assessing Teacher Perceptions on Formats

Teachers indicated their level of agreement with the following statements:

1. I prefer print materials over digital for teaching
2. My students prefer print materials over digital
3. Students learn better from print materials than they do from digital

Agree = Prefer Print
I prefer print materials over digital for teaching

- Agree: 57%
- Neither: 23%
- Disagree: 20%
1 in 4 Teachers Believe their Students Prefer Digital over Print

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My students prefer print materials over digital

- Agree: 50%
- Neither: 24%
- Disagree: 26%
MAJORITY BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS LEARN BETTER FROM PRINT THAN DIGITAL

Students learn better from print materials than they do from digital

- Agree: 58%
- Neither: 25%
- Disagree: 17%

- 58% Agree
- 25% Neither
- 17% Disagree

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Teachers Perceptions on Format

• Large preference for print, similar to prior years

• Comparing responses between questions, we see:

  62% of teachers believe they agree with students on preference
    - 49% both prefer print
    - 13% both prefer digital

  11.5% of teachers say they disagree with their students
    - 3.5% prefer digital and say their students prefer print
    - 8% prefer print and say their students prefer digital
OER Awareness And OER Use
Definitions used in surveys

**Open Educational Resources (OER):** OER is defined as "teaching, learning, and research 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." Unlike traditionally copyrighted material, these resources are available for "open" use, which means users can edit, modify, customize, and share them.

**Licensing Types**

**Public Domain:** A designation for content that is not protected by any copyright law or other restriction and may be freely copied, shared, altered, and republished by anyone.

**Creative Commons (CC):** Open license that gives everyone from individual authors to governments and institutions a simple, standardized way to grant copyright permissions to their creative work, provided by Creative Commons.

Similar questions were asked year to year to allow trends to be examined.
HOW TO MEASURE OER AWARENESS?

How aware are you of Open Educational Resources (OER)? OER is defined as “teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others.” Unlike traditionally copyrighted material, these resources are available for “open” use, which means users can edit, modify, customize, and share them.

- I am not aware of OER
- I have heard of OER, but don’t know much about them
- I am somewhat aware of OER but I am not sure how they can be used
- I am aware of OER and some of their use cases
- I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom
How to Measure OER Awareness?

How aware are you of Open Educational Resources (OER)? OER is defined as “teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or are released under an intellectual property license that permits their use and re-purposing by others.” Unlicensed materials are free to use and are not considered OER. OER can be used in the classroom.

- I am not aware of OER
- I have heard of OER, but don’t know about them
- I am somewhat aware of OER and know how they can be used
- I am aware of OER and can describe them
- I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom

But can we trust responses about OER?
We need a better measure of OER awareness.

Creative Commons Awareness + OER Awareness = “Strict” OER Awareness

This measure removes the number stating they are aware of OER but not aware of CC. We have high confidence in the remaining OER aware respondents are really aware of OER.
K-12 OER Awareness Remains Low…

- 28%: I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom
- 12%: I am aware of OER and some of their use cases
- 9%: I am somewhat aware of OER but I am not sure how they can be used
- 12%: I have heard of OER, but don't know much about them
- 60%: I am not aware of OER
But has returned to pre-pandemic levels

- Use of OER as a required material increased 6%
- Current awareness is the same as pre-pandemic – but higher levels of “very aware”
OER Awareness Associated with Grade and Online

K-12 OER Awareness (Strict) by Grade Level

- Pre-K to 3: 2% I am very aware, 6% I am aware, 9% I am somewhat aware
- 4 to 5: 3% I am very aware, 8% I am aware, 7% I am somewhat aware
- 6 to 8: 9% I am very aware, 13% I am aware, 10% I am somewhat aware
- 9 to 12: 10% I am very aware, 16% I am aware, 10% I am somewhat aware

K-12 OER Awareness (Strict) by Online Experience

- Yes: 10% I am very aware, 17% I am aware, 13% I am somewhat aware
- No, I provided all instruction in-person: 7% I am very aware, 12% I am aware, 9% I am somewhat aware

I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom
I am aware of OER and some of their use cases
I am somewhat aware of OER but I am not sure how they can be used
Some Differences by Region

K-12 OER Awareness (Strict) by Region

- **West**: 10% very aware, 12% aware, 9% somewhat aware, 6% not aware, 25% total.
- **Northeast**: 9% very aware, 11% aware, 6% somewhat aware, 26% total.
- **Southeast**: 7% very aware, 11% aware, 9% somewhat aware, 27% total.
- **Midwest**: 6% very aware, 10% aware, 9% somewhat aware, 25% total.
- **Central**: 7% very aware, 16% aware, 14% somewhat aware, 37% total.

Legend:
- I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom
- I am aware of OER and some of their use cases
- I am somewhat aware of OER but I am not sure how they can be used
K-12 SUMMARY

OER awareness returned to pre-pandemic level (28%) after a small drop last year.

OER Awareness is associated with teachers who:

- Teach partially or fully online
- Higher grade levels
- Teach in Central or Western states
CONCLUSIONS
OER AWARENESS IN US EDUCATION

Awareness increases with classroom grade level

OER Awareness (Strict) by School Type - 2023

- **Elementary School**: 2% (very aware), 7% (aware), 8% (somewhat aware)
- **High School**: 10% (very aware), 15% (aware), 10% (somewhat aware)
- **Higher Education**: 29% (very aware), 25% (aware), 10% (somewhat aware)

Legend:
- I am very aware of OER and know how they can be used in the classroom
- I am aware of OER and some of their use cases
- I am somewhat aware of OER but I am not sure how they can be used
WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF OER?

K-12

• Can OER awareness grow in K-12?
• How does OER use across different grades and disciplines?
• How can teachers help prepare students to succeed with digital courseware (including OER) in higher education?
QUESTIONS?

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