Open Peer Review

Reviewer: Brenda Vollman

Recommendation: Revisions Required

Scope, Objectives, Content

Is the article in scope for Journal of Open Educational Resources in Higher Education? Does the topic discuss an element related to open education, open data, open access, or other open topics? Is the topic an important one, or is it trivial or of low priority?

Yes, absolutely. This paper explores an element of the Open Education movement, the integral role of Librarians in this endeavor. It is important for the reason just mentioned, as well as the fact that it is a study in the community college setting, which frequently serves underfunded and underserved student populations.

Organization

Does the article proceed logically? As applicable, does the article adhere to a recommended structure and the section guideline?

In terms of overall structure, yes, but there are elements within each section that could be better situated. Example: I am not sure these sentences belong in the Methods section "Many community college libraries work with minimal staff and resources. The research provides insight into how to best work with limited resources and move state and local OER initiatives forward for other community colleges in the state. "

In qualitative studies, we often use the heading "Findings" rather than Results, so that you can then organize what you found (your themes) as these emerged from your qualitative data.

There are many points in the Discussion that would be better presented in the Literature review .

Methodology, Approach, Conclusions

The methodology for data gathering and analysis should be appropriate for the problem addressed. Inferences from data should be sound--the author should not reach unsupported conclusions. Not all papers will use a scientific research methodology, but all should employ sound reasoning and an adequate balance between description and critical analysis. Consider: Is the article factually accurate? Is it clear the author knows, or has investigated, previous work on the subject of the article? Has the author failed to reference recent or seminal work on the subject?

Case studies are useful for understanding motives and perceptions. Appropriate for the subject under study. But I have unanswered questions about the methods, identified later in this review.

I would also say that the sample is purposeful and available, not snowball. It is a case study (community college OER using available subjects) I do indicate that the methodology is not appropriate without further information being provide, illustrated in some of the questions I ask under "weaker points".

 I think the presentation of the data "interview quotes" are interspersed with analysis in a way that confounds conclusion with evidence. I am not sure how much is inference from the researcher and what was actually said by the subjects.

Writing Style, References

Please indicate whether there are problems with expression or flow, but do not comment about grammar or basic edits. Do NOT take the time to do copy editing - that will be handled later in the process. However, general comments pointing out problems with style or format are useful.

Flow and grammar needs editing. There is a lack of clarity at times (Example: "The researchers studied faculty working with a librarian or other colleagues to adopt OER to understand their experiences throughout the process and the librarians' roles to best assist the faculty. "

and, as a social science researcher, the way the data are discussed needs some work: (Examples: "The results from the interviews directly contributed to the themes." Would be better stated as, themes emerged from the interviews.)

I also think, while there is a great deal of meat on the bone, it is obscured in the presentation and organization of ideas in each section.

Application:

Does the article contribute knowledge or practical examples that will inform/improve others' practice or education?

It could, but needs reworking so that the data is distinguished from the analysis.

What are the stronger points/qualities of the article?

This article earnestly works towards supporting the use of OER. There is a lot of qualitative data that has wonderful potential.

What are the weaker points/qualities of the article? How could they be strengthened?

I would need these questions answered more directly in the methods sections: Questions:

Did librarians facilitate the creation of OER?

How was the data analyzed?

Were these faculty for different disciplines?

Were interviews recorded then transcribed?

What does "successful implementation look like? "The data indicated faculty and librarians who worked together successfully implemented OER in their courses. "

While themes emerge from the interviews, it is never clear what processes may have been employed, or software used, to uncover/discover the themes in this case study.

The results section needs re-organizing. Instead of identifying in a paragraph each "theme". I would suggest clustering the theme, then providing the supportive data (quotes), linked by analysis.

 This data point links themes interview subject, not theme, which makes if very difficult to experience the weight of the theme. This examples moves from "concern over discipline specific content, but also references time and offering incentives, which obscures the content concern.

Analysis of other units of observation (websites and syllabi) should be presented in the Findings section as well - not in the discussion.

Kimberlee, a full-time faculty member and department chair, expressed her concern for discipline-specific content. She stated:

I wasn't sure. I didn't know if they would have offerings in my discipline…I knew   English faculty and History faculty that were using some open resources…I looked at   OpenStax primarily because those are peer-reviewed. They happened to have books in anatomy and physiology, which was, I think, the first textbook I transitioned to.

Kimberlee also stated, "I believe it's part of my job to create materials, but there is a limit to what I have to do and what I have time to do…" She continued to suggest administration offer incentives like a course release, supplement, or fellowship to faculty to faculty working to transition and create materials. Kimberlee slowly transitioned all her classes, one at a time, over several semesters, but commented that "labs are a little trickier." She stated that there were some OER resources for labs, but she preferred to create her own. Some lab simulations were available online, but "they cost $60 to $75 for the students,

Peer Review Ranking: Scope

Does the topic discuss an element related to open education, open data, open access, or other open topics?

Relevant

Peer Review Ranking: Clarity

Clarity of expression and flow? Does the article proceed logically?

Not Clear

Peer Review Ranking: Contribution

Contribution to Higher Education research and/or practice

Contributes

Peer Review Ranking: Research Assessment

If this is a research paper, is the methodology appropriate?

Not Appropriate

Peer Review Ranking: Research Assessment

If this is a research paper, is the methodology appropriate? Does the article contribute knowledge or practical examples that will inform/improve others' practice or education?

Not Sound

Overall Evaluation

1- Weak Accept