OER Pilot for Art Appreciation

Joan Bontempo, professor of art appreciation/art history, *jhbontempo@hagerstowncc.edu*
Hagerstown Community College

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Pilot project for use of open educational resources (OER) for Introduction to the Visual Arts (ART 101), an art appreciation course
- Project supported by a Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative High-Impact OER Mini-Grant
- Traditional print textbook was replaced with a Lumen Learning OER
- Goal: Explore whether an OER textbook resource could be used for all sections of the course

IMPLEMENTATION

- *Art Appreciation*, a Lumen Learning resource, was chosen to replace traditional print textbook for one face-to-face section of the course during the Fall 2018 semester
- OER was delivered using the course LMS
- The resource's modules were divided into the four units used by the traditional textbook in order to create organizational and content consistency across sections
- Student learning assessments (mid-term and final exam) were consistent across sections
- Instructor developed her own lectures and PowerPoint presentations to clarify and emphasize OER content

IMPACT

- Pilot project impact: One faculty member, one section, 28 students
- Estimated cost savings of $70 to $150 per student (vs. new at online book retailers, campus bookstore)
- Learning impact: No change in student learning outcomes
- Student : Students in pilot section reported preference for a print textbook. Many students do not have personal computers and lack internet service except on their phones. They said that a print text is easier to use and encourages more time reading

IMPACT (CON'T.)

- Instructor impact: The main impact of the pilot was to double the instructor workload required for the course. The OER was very low quality. Content and sources were largely unusable, incomplete, inconsistent, or inappropriate for the course level. To compensate, the instructor corrected, clarified, and supplemented material included in the OER

LESSONS LEARNED

- Successes: The OER offered a new orientation to some course content, and it included very current artists as examples for discussion
- Challenges: Low-quality OER increased instructor workload. Students would have preferred a print textbook
- Summary: Value is a combination of price and quality – not price alone. If the OER had been high quality, it would have represented value for students, but a low-quality course resource is not a good value regardless of price
- Advice for colleagues: Unless a high-quality OER is available, develop your own

FUTURE PLANS

- There are no plans to use OER for future versions of this course
- Summer stipends equivalent to course pay would support the faculty time necessary to create quality resources