

The Role of OER in Amplifying Special Collections: Preliminary Findings from a Scoping Review

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Abstract

This lightning talk will begin to explore the existing literature on the intersection of the Open Education Resource (OER) movement and archival practices, with a specific focus on how archivists and other cultural heritage professionals utilize OER language and platforms to promote their use of collections to educators. While demand OER grows, with its value increasingly recognized by educators and administrators at all levels, the willingness of archivists to integrate Open Educational language and practices into their professional practice is largely unexplored. There are certainly primed opportunities for archivists to collaborate with OER organizations and professionals to make their materials more readily available for adoption or adaptation. This includes but is not limited to openly licensing digitized archival materials, creating easily discoverable metadata, and developing aligned OER curricula. This lightning talk will offer preliminary findings of existing literature on the integration of archival materials with OER initiatives. Ultimate findings will inform future research and practical recommendations for archivists on how to leverage OER platforms, funding, and language to effectively promote their collections for educational use.

About the authors:

Autumn M. Johnson is the Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor at Georgia Southern University, where she oversees instruction, outreach, and reference efforts for the University Libraries' Special Collections. Additionally, she acts as the library liaison for several academic departments, including History, Irish Studies, and the School of Human Ecology. As a librarian liaison, she has experience assisting faculty in developing and adapting Open Educational Resources (OER) and promoting open pedagogy practices.

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