Project brief: CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective - Pilot

Document Information

Project Name:	CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective - Pilot
Date:	24 May 2021
Author:	Fiona Salisbury; Kate Davis
Version:	1

Key Project Information

Project Sponsor:	Fiona Salisbury Program Director f.salisbury@latrobe.edu.au
Program:	Enabling a Modern Curriculum
Project Start Date:	May 2021
Project End Date:	December 2023
CAUL National Office Contact:	Kate Davis Director, Strategy & Analytics kate.davis@caul.edu.au
Project Management Group:	Open Educational Resources Collective Project Team
Related Projects:	● Open Educational Resources Professional Development Program ● Open Educational Resources Advocacy
Key Documents:	The following documents will be created following the establishment of the Project Team: ● Project Timeline ● Membership List – Project Team ● Terms of Reference – Project Team ● Risk Management Strategy

Project Approval

CAUL Board of Directors:	19 May 2021

Project Overview

Background & Context	Infrastructure to support sharing and finding of OERs has been identified as a key challenge for adoption of OERs in Australia (Wills, Alexander & Sadler, 2016). Further, it has been suggested that support from peak bodies will be required to ensure the creation and use of OERs nationally (Ponte, Lennox & Hurley, 2021). In 2020, CAUL facilitated a survey to establish whether there is interest in a shared open textbook platform available to all members. The survey results show that, while it appears that not all members have an interest at present in OER publishing, there is sufficient interest and potential support from enough members to warrant further investigation. This nascent interest and the

	potential offered by collaborative national solutions was reinforced in a recent paper by Ponte, Lennox & Hurley which recommended the development of an 'Australia wide shared subscription to an authoring platform like PressbooksEDU to create and adapt open works and to provide a standardised design and professional appearance, supported and endorsed by peak bodies such as CAUL or ALIA' (p. 8).
Objectives:	1. Develop a proposal for a CAUL Open Resources Collective, for review and endorsement for the CAUL Board. 2. Implement the CAUL Open Resources Collective. 3. Facilitate publication of two to three open textbooks.
Brief Description of Project:	This project will develop a model for and implement a CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective Pilot. This will include developing and implementing models for governance, management, membership, administrative support, editorial processes, and allocation of included titles. The Collective will provide a shared OER publication platform for CAUL member institutions (or member institutions who opt in to the Collective). The platform subscription will be funded by CAUL at no expense to members. The Collective will provide infrastructure for member institutions to publish a set number of titles of their choosing each year. Additionally, the Collective will support publication of OERs in targeted disciplines through a collaborative, cross-institutional authoring model, drawing on the strength of networks within the CAUL membership to encourage cross-institutional collaboration on OERs. The aims of the Collective will be developed as part of the project, but are likely to include: ● Provide an opportunity for institutions new to OER (particular open textbook) publication to make a start with open publishing through access to a shared platform, with minimal risk, and low or no cost. ● Provide an opportunity for member institutions to develop capacity related to open publishing through collaboration across the membership. The Project Team will undertake the following activities to inform the development of a model for the CAUL OER Collective: ● Review and analyse data from the 2020 CAUL member survey. ● Undertake an environmental scan of collaborative OER initiatives internationally, including a review of models. ● Identify disciplines and/or topics where there is a need for open textbooks (which may include areas where there is no suitable Australian textbook, or where textbook costs are high). ● Develop a proposal for the CAUL Board outlining a model for a two year Pilot. ● Establish the Collective. ● Manage the Collective for the first two years of operation. ● Provide advice and support for the development of two to three collaboratively authored open textbooks. ● Review and evaluate the Pilot after two years of operation.
Benefits:	Benefits of the CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective for CAUL members will include: ● Access to a shared publishing platform with no subscription costs ● Access to support resources

	● Opportunities to collaborate on OERs ● Opportunity to begin work in the OER space with minimal risk ● Opportunity to raise the profile of OERs at a national level, which has the potential to positively impact on local advocacy.
Scope:	In scope: ● Development of a proposal for the CAUL Board outlining a recommended model for a CAUL Open Resources Collective. ● Implementation of the CAUL Open Resources Collective Pilot. ● Management of operation of the CAUL Open Resources Collective Pilot. ● Development of OERs. ● Evaluation of the Pilot.

Anticipated Deliverables:	1. Proposal for a CAUL Open Educational Resources Collective including
	   a. Membership model
	   b. Publishing model
	   c. Budget
	   d. Implementation plan.
	2. Report on the Pilot including evaluation and recommendations for the future of the Collective.
	3. Two to three OERs published.

Anticipated Timeline:	● Establish Project Team - May 2021 ● Convene Project Team and commence planning - June 2021 ● Submit proposal to CAUL Board - September 2021 ● Commence work to establish the Pilot- September 2021 ● Report on first year of operation - December 2022 ● Report on the Pilot - December 2023
Resource Requirements:	**Personnel:** A Project Team comprising five or six staff from CAUL member institutions (a project lead or two co-leads, and four to five team members) will be established to undertake the project. It is anticipated that the workload for each team member will be approximately two hours per week during the planning phase and early stages of implementation. Workload may vary across the life of the project. **Project management:** Project management support will be provided by CAUL National Office. **Budget:** The Pressbooks platform will be funded by CAUL at no cost to members, using excess funds in the Consortium USD account. **Other:** N/A
Key Stakeholders:	● CAUL Member institutions. ● Australasian Open Educational Practice Special Interest Group. ● The Open Textbook Initiative.
Key Risks:	The following risks have been identified. Mitigation strategies will be identified in the project planning phase: ● Inadequate resources available for the project. ● Lack of interest from member institutions. ● Information about collaborative OER publishing initiatives is not readily available. ● Lack of interest in authoring OERs.

	● OER development process is difficult to manage.

References:	Wills, S., Alexander, S., & Sadler, D. (2016). *Students, Universities and Open Education: Final report 2016*. https://openedoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ID14-3972_CSU_Wills_Final-Report_2016.pdf
	Ponte, F., Lennox, A., and Hurley, J. (2021). The evolution of the Open Textbook Initiative. *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1080/24750158.2021.1883819