

Open Education Conference 2021

Challenges and Opportunities of OER at a Bilingual Canadian University

Mélanie Brunet and Michelle Brown, University of Ottawa Library



Presenters



Mélanie Brunet
Open Education Librarian



Michelle Brown
Head, Learning and Student Success





1. Context : The University of Ottawa



42,000 students

70% English

30% French



Textbook costs at uOttawa, 2019-2020

Costs in highest enrolment undergraduate programs (in CAD)



Textbook costs at uOttawa, 2019-2020

Costs in highest enrolment undergraduate programs (in CAD)

	English	French
Juris Doctor	\$2,086.75	\$558.69
Biomedical Sciences	\$1,938.00	\$655.91
Psychology	\$1,530.45	\$756.37
Nursing	\$1,037.82	\$839.25
Electrical Engineering	\$984.75	\$728.25
Communication	\$941.70	\$257.87
Commerce	\$821.00	\$584.68
Education	\$130.67	\$214.40

2. Gap in Availability of OER in French



English Dominance in OER



English Dominance in OER

- Dominance in Internet infrastructure, use and content

Internet World Stats (March 31, 2020)		
	English	French
Internet Users	25.9%	3.3%
Internet Penetration	77.5%	35.2%

Source: Miniwatts Marketing Group, "Internet World Users by Language: Top 10 Languages," *Internet World Stats: Usage and Population Statistics*, <https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm>



English Dominance in OER

- Dominance in scientific/academic publishing
 - including about OER

Google Scholar Search in Title (September 19, 2021)	
"open educational resources"	≈ 4,100 results
"ressources éducatives libres"	≈ 34 results

Source: Advanced searches performed by M. Brunet using <https://scholar.google.com/>



Comparison with **Commercial Textbooks**

- Small commercial publishing market for French-language resources



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Francophone population		
Ontario (2016)	622,415	4.7%
Canada (2016)	7,914,498	22.8%
World (2018)	253,000,000	3.1%

Sources: Government of Ontario, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/profile-francophone-population-ontario-2016>, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-languages-bilingualism/publications/facts-canadian-francophonie.html>, and OIF, *La langue française dans le monde*, <https://www.francophonie.org/node/305>.



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Comparison with **Commercial Textbooks**

- Unique cultural and linguistic Franco-Ontarian context
 - Own dialect
 - Own history of struggles with dominant English society
 - Not reflected in textbooks from Quebec or France



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- University tuition costs in Francophone countries and regions?

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**Tuition fees in France, full-time European students,
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€170 (\cong \$255 CAD)
(real cost without government subsidy
 \cong €10,000 or \$15,000 CAD)

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Tuition fees in France, full-time European students, <i>licence</i>, per year (2021-2022) (in Euro)	€170 (\cong \$255 CAD) (real cost without government subsidy \cong €10,000 or \$15,000 CAD)
Tuition fees in Canada, full-time domestic students, undergraduate programs in arts and humanities, per year (2020-2021) (in CAD)	
Quebec	\$2,623 - \$8,186
Ontario	\$5,398 - \$11,420
British Columbia	\$4,267 - \$14,646

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- More protective view of copyright (“droit d’auteur”)?
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 - No fair use/fair dealing provisions in Civil Law
 - Knowledge cultures resistant to “open”



3. Equity Challenges



uOttawa example of language inequity

- **Introduction to Linear Algebra**

MAT 1341 (English) uses “Vector Spaces First” by T. Giordano, B. Jessup and M. Nevins since 2015

- Not OER but free
- 1,300 students annually

MAT1741 (French) uses “Algèbre linéaire et applications” by D. Lay

- \$120.50 (published by Pearson at uOttawa CampusStore)
- 630 students annually



Consequences of these equity gaps

- Human rights issues



Consequences of these equity gaps

- Human rights issues
- Assimilation into the dominant culture / loss of culture



4. Opportunities



University of Ottawa **Strategy**

- ***Transformation 2030 (2019)***
 - Promote and reward the development of affordable learning materials
 - Develop Open Educational Resources (OER) in French

University of Ottawa **Strategy**

- **2019 *Action Plan for the Francophonie***
- **2021 *Consultations on the Francophonie***
 - Provide resources to create a French-language textbook publishing program in collaboration with French-language publishers including the University of Ottawa Press
 - Provide faculty with publishing tools to publish in the other official language and fund open access rights to French-language publications

University of Ottawa Strategy

- Open and Affordable Learning Materials Working Group - Report
 - Need for dedicated funding and initiatives for OER in French



Library OER Grant



Library OER Grant

- *Introduction to Legal Analysis* by Anne Levesque

Series of podcasts in French to introduce first-year students in the French common law program to legal analysis.

Note

Common law is taught in French only at two universities in Canada: University of Ottawa (Ontario) and Université de Moncton (New Brunswick)

Opportunities for uOttawa and beyond

- Bypassing limited commercial market for French-language resources
 - Representative of French-speaking minorities in Canada
 - Potential of co-creation with students



Opportunities for uOttawa and beyond

- Beyond uncritical translation of English OER or using “as is”

Dimension	Injustices	Ameliorative (affirmative) response Remedial reforms	Transformative response Addressing root causes
Cultural	Misrecognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Using OER “as is” (copying)</i> ▪ <i>Translating OER uncritically</i> 	Recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Locating and incorporating OER used “as is” within local epistemological and cultural contexts</i> ▪ <i>Translation OER into local languages prudently</i> 	Re-acculturation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Re-mixing OER critically to engage with and challenge hegemonic perspectives</i> ▪ <i>Sharing remixed teaching and learning materials publicly</i> ▪ <i>Creation of OER</i>



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Thank you!

Questions?

melanie.brunet@uottawa.ca & @MelanieBrunet
michelle.brown@uottawa.ca & @LibraryGurrl

