# Yukon

### Yukon College

Between 2016 and 2017, we had workshops about OER, primarily to raise awareness about advantages for students and faculty as well as to explore options available to find and adapt OER.

In 2017, Dr. Rajiv Jhangiani from Kwantlen Polytechnic University provided a workshop to Yukon College faculty, focusing on adapting and creating OER with Pressbooks. The workshop had good attendance, and at least two instructors started adapting textbooks from BC Campus.

In 2018, we surveyed OER use by College faculty. The survey had 84 respondents (81% of permanent and term instructors and 19% of sessional instructors) and provided some interesting results. The highlights:

* Use of print textbooks is expected to fall relative to digital resources: while 90% of the respondents said they rely on traditional print textbooks for their courses, only 50% said they expect to continue using print textbooks in the next five years.
* Use of free, open, digital textbooks is expected to double from 35% today to 70% in five years. However, based on respondents’ answers, the adoption of paid digital textbooks are also set to increase from 25% to 45% in the next five years.
* Instructors still hesitate to adopt open textbooks due to limited selection and quality, additional time needed in workload, and a preference for paper. The cost of textbooks, however, is acknowledged as one of the main barriers to many students, and this will likely push for an increase in OER adoption rates in the future. In fact, this is already a noticeable trend.
* Lack of time to adapt and integrate OER, and difficulty locating suitable OER are factors that limit their use in teaching at the College: due to the unique characteristics of the College – which is bound to become a northern focused university in 2020 – there are not many options already available for adoption, which means instructors would need to spend more time reviewing and/or creating their own resources. 21% of respondents also said OER do not compare well to commercial options. Technical issues in the classroom and poor Internet connectivity in the communities (which is, in fact, an issue) is also pointed as a barrier for adoption of digital OER.

Close to half of the respondents said they would be willing to adopt OER if more class preparation time was available with more help with adapting resources to their own courses.

As mentioned previously, Yukon College will become a university within the next two years. A range of unique courses is being planned, which also provides an opportunity for OER development in-house. In 2018, support for adapting and/or developing new open education resources had been provided for two new programs and was expected to expand to other new courses.

In 2019 and 2020, we intend to better integrate OER exploration as part of the cycle for course development at the College, combining the efforts of the Library and Teaching and Learning teams in this process.