OPEN STRATEGIES TEAM Academic Year 2024-2025
Created May 23, 2025
Finalized June 5th, 2025

Overview:

The Open Strategies Team supports student success and the transformation of scholarly communication by building understanding, engagement, and capacity for open access, open education, and open scholarship practices both in the Library and throughout the university.

Library KPIs:

- Course Reserves required course materials
  - Estimated total savings for students for AY 24-25 is $174,437, across 64 courses and reaching 1,927 students.

Course Reserves for Required Materials	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Academic year 24-25
# of Courses using Leganto for required readings	31	33	64
# of Students Served by Required Leganto Reading lists	948	979	1927
Estimated Course Reserves Savings (Required courses)	$80,326	$94,110	$174,437

From OST KPI's

- Student Savings (Primary)
  - Amount saved via ThinkOpen program:
    - This year we did not have any new Think Open Fellowships.
    - Program savings to date is estimated to be: $877,892
  - Amount saved via Reserves
    - $174,437 is the 24-25 year estimate for savings for required course materials offered in course reserves

Objectives (includes timebound goals and projects):

1) *Make University of Idaho students' education more affordable*

   o **Why:**
     - To save students money and Increase access to materials for students and overall affordability of education at the university
   o **How:**
     - Support and promote the use of open educational resources, open textbooks, open pedagogy practices, and other strategies
     - Create a workshop Mini-Series on Open on Campus, 3 to 4 short video workshops to get folks up to speed
     - Focus course marking communications to staff and faculty vs messaging to students
       - Increase low and zero-cost courses offered on campus

       o **Success looks like:**

- Save students at least $100,000 through open practices

Fall Updates:
- Links to the Open at U of I pressbook and course marking tool were added to the [Course Marking](#) page in lieu of creating a video for finding these tools
- Discussions were had re: marketing/communicating course marking initiative:
  - Having a representative at the bookstore during textbook adoption time to discuss course marking (inclusive access has a representative)
  - Presenting on course marking at faculty orientation
- Involving academic advisors

Spring Updates:
- Planning an OA week for October 2025 to help build faculty awareness around Open
- Planning and deciding a communication format to share Open opportunities both hosted by the library and elsewise (likely a blog with an email list blast to previous Think Open fellows and other Open interested folks)
- Key findings from the 2023 survey show:
  - Students report needing only modest price reductions ($11) to make classes materials feel mor affordable
  - Around half are skipping a required text
  - 18% report not having a choice in what classes they pick
  - The most expensive colleges are SBE and SAA, however the SAA students report a bigger affordability gap (SBE students actually report they can afford their materials). EHHS also has a notable affordability gap. Work with Liaisons to share what their college findings are.

2) *Leverage Verso to measure and improve OA publication on campus, including CDIL projects, Pressbook publications, and open access publication by the faculty, particularly related to the Open Access Publishing Fund*

- **Why:**
  - To create a better understanding of and support infrastructure for open access publishing on campus
- **How:**
  - Use OAPF to help faculty publish their articles as open access
  - Improve tools and options available for open publishing on campus
  - Work with Research Impact Team to use VERSO to measure and increase visibility for open access publications (including OAPF articles) and projects by university faculty

- Measure engagement and create persistent open presences for Pressbooks and CDIL projects via VERSO and its DOI functionalities

    - **Success looks like:**
        - OAPF funds expended
        - DOIs assigned to pressbooks, CDIL projects, and select digital collections (as decided by team)
        - Statistics tracked/communicated via VERSO for OAPF and OA articles generally in OA Campus Report

Fall update:
- Took over the OAPF Collection in VERSO
    - Currently up to date through FY24, includes 147 articles
    - Drafted OAPF VERSO workflow for keeping the collection updated in conjunction with annual OAPF reports
- Most catalogued pressbooks added into VERSO and library catalog
    - Other pressbook policies (including DOIs) in progress
- Proposed metrics to track via VERSO:
    - # of OA-tagged items (4,092)
    - # of OA peer-reviewed journals (1,200)
- OAPF funding period #1 fully encumbered as of 11/7 ($15,000)

Spring update:
- OAPF funding period #2 fully encumbered as of 3/27 ($15,000)
- Explored questions related to DOI authority and how to balance that across our diverse digital ecosystem of Pressbooks, CDIL projects, and other

3) *Assess contractual and other opportunities for advancing open activities on campus through contracts (i.e. Transformative Publishing Agreements, etc.)*

- **Why:**
    - Better understand open publishing possibilities available via subscription
- **How:**
    - Track and assess the various options available to the library via subscription
    - Communicate opportunities to collections team, the dean, and library faculty regularly
- **Success looks like:**
    - Final report in Spring 2025 that outlines possible contractual opportunities for increasing open activities on campus

Fall update:
- Received access to tracking data from Rami
    - APC savings from 2023 to 2024: $97,547

- o Identified some ways to improve tracking:
    - ▪ # of departments and colleges represented
    - ▪ Reorganize the data
- o Identified ways to improve communication re: agreements:
    - o Add links/lists of specific journals covered under agreement (e.g., Spring Nature only waives fees for hybrid journal APCs and provides a list on their site)
    - o Update call out to transformative agreements on OAPF pages as potential alternative
    - o Update page organization
- o Identified most common publishers from OAPF that could be worth pursuing agreements with:
    - o Frontiers (16 OAPF-funded articles)
    - o Wiley (15) (I believe this is in progress?)
    - o PLOS (8)

Spring update:
- o The OAPF FAQ regarding transformative agreements has been updated to reflect the library's expanded read and publish agreements, as well as a link to VERSO.

Unit/Team Metrics:
- ▪ # of think open inquiries and applications
    - o 0, likely due to Marco being out but also suggests less organic interest than in previous peak years
- ▪ # of staff and faculty communications regarding affordability/open
    - o 38 contacts regarding OAPF
- ▪ i/o Publish campus open survey report
    - o The scholarly article for the undergraduate results is almost ready. Leesa and Marco are working on an outreach strategy to share the results.
- ▪ # of Open Access publications by U of I faculty
- ▪ 2,261 of 21,508 total faculty & research scholarship items
- ▪ % of faculty work in RIM system that is openly accessible
    - o 10.5% is OA

Membership:
- ▪ Marco Seiferle-Valencia (Lead)
- ▪ Leesa Love
- ▪ Bruce Godfrey
- ▪ Maryelizabeth Koepele

- Kelly Omodt
- Tyler Rodrigues
- Victoria Kerr (Leganto)

Reporting to:
- Associate Dean, Research & Instruction

Final Outcomes

- Objective 1 – Savings Students Money
  - We did not have new Think Open Fellowships, but we still estimated $170,000 in annual savings from existing fellowships
  - The Think Open program savings to date is estimated at around $875,000
  - Course reserves saved students around $175,000 this year by offering required materials for 64 courses, and reaching approximately 2,000 students. This means about 16% of Vandal students are using course reserves.
- Objective 2 – Leverage Verso and Maintain OAPF
  - Created and updated the OAPF collection in Verso, creating a record of all scholarship funded by the OAPF since inception
  - Collaborated with other teams to link VERSO, Pressbooks, Library generated DOI's, with the library catalog to improve discoverability
- Objective 3 – Assess transformative publishing agreement possibilities
  - Researched and understood transformative publishing agreements
    - APC savings from 2023 to 2024: $97,547
  - Identified specific strategies to improve communication

Challenges and Opportunities for Next Year

For objective 1, student savings, our focus will be on outreach to course schedulers, to ensure existing zero and very low cost courses are marked. We saw a big drop off in marked courses because the library was not able to do outreach this year. We are also planning to connect with CETL and hopefully catch more faculty earlier on in their course material decisions process.

Additionally, we are planning an OA week event and OA-centered podcast, which are hoped to help demonstrate what we are already doing, celebrate students and faculty who have been participating in open across campus, and help get people inspired about new projects. This will also likely be an opportunity to present the findings from the 2023 student course materials affordability survey.

We will be deemphasizing the cost savings and volume of Think Open fellowships going forward but still offering them as curricular fellowships through CDIL. We saw less interest in Think Open this last year, though it is unclear if that is related to Marco being out and there being less outreach and promotion.

For objective 2, VERSO outreach, the OST may have met our core goals here of making sure we have strategic connection and representation of OA published properties in VERSO. Similarly, objective 3, saw a lot of progress, with research and internal Infromation sharing on transformative publishing agreements. However, more work remains to communicate both these opportunities to stakeholders and potential users.

These proposed ideas work well with the proposed vision of moving some of the KPI'S collected by OST to actually being DSOS unit KPI's, and restructuring and recharging the OST team to be focused on open campus engagement with the libraries open and cost savings options.