

eLearning Practices in Libraries: The Global Scene

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Description

Libraries in many global regions and contexts have increasingly become involved in activities in support of eLearning. Libraries naturally provide materials, technology and expertise in support of educational institutions as they deliver teaching and learning activities to students in distance programs or through other virtual environments. Education at all levels increasingly is delivered outside the physical classroom and it is important for libraries to shape their services accordingly. Libraries not only need to acquire content appropriate for virtual learning but can also engage with technologies that integrate resources selected by instructors into virtual learning environments in ways that mitigate costs to the institution and to the students while respecting copyrights and leveraging library subscriptions and open access materials. Librarians are also increasingly involved in direct e-learning to students and community members. Contexts include bibliographic or technology instruction in support of academic programs as well as the library's own educational activities.

The cost of educational content has continued to increase from commercial providers. The need for lower cost high-quality teaching materials has led to interest in Open Educational Resources, or OERs. Rather than high-cost subscriptions to proprietary textbooks, many institutions have become involved in the creation, dissemination, and use of OERs. Libraries likewise can play an important role in the OER community. These units of educational content need to be incorporated into library-provided repositories and discovery environments. Libraries can also contribute through advice and advocacy for the creation and use of OERs within their educational organizations.

Massive open online courses, or MOOCs have made an impact on educational institutions. The scale of these courses presents challenges to libraries to provide resources and other aspects of bibliographic support. While MOOCs have not necessarily resulted in the transformation of education as once was envisioned, they continue to be offered by many institutions and benefit from library involvement.

As education continues to expand the bounds of the physical classroom, libraries face challenges to provide support via high-quality electronic resources, bibliographic instruction, and technology solutions. eLearning represents one of the key opportunities for libraries across the globe.

Breeding will give an overview and examples of eLearning practices that have been carried out in different types of libraries in differing global regions. University, school, public, and special libraries each have unique opportunities to deliver educational and scholarly resources to their clientele as they engage in virtual learning activities.

Library realities



Change is constant

Change is cumulative

**Its rare that libraries get to eliminate
established services**

The myth of digital libraries

- Digital content has reduced, not will likely never eliminate the need for physical collections and services
- Hybrid libraries prevail: Digital, electronic, and print collections
- Need organizational support and technical infrastructure to support lending and access of content spanning multiple formats

Manage change strategically

- Essential to react to changes in the global tech arena
- Libraries need to accelerate change, but
- Change must be consistent with library missions and values, such as
 - ▣ Delivering services in support of parent institutions and communities
 - ▣ Universal access to collections and content
 - ▣ Protection of privacy
 - ▣ Respect for intellectual property rights

Extending the reach of libraries

- Traditional services:
 - ▣ Fulfillment of Collections and Content
 - ▣ Disciplinary bibliographic support and information services
- Continued strategic interest, but
- Need to continually position the library in new ways for its parent institution or community

Emerging opportunities

□ Academic Examples

□ Services in support of the research agenda of the institution

- Research data management
- Research data repositories
- Research services infrastructure and services
 - Highlighting faculty profiles
 - Access to knowledge bases of funding opportunities
 - Data and analytics on institutional research performance
 - Stakeholders: faculty, library, institutional office of research
- Deeper involvement in teaching curriculum
 - Reading list support and copyright management
 - Course-specific support
 - Student and institutional savings for course materials

Public Library Examples

- New focus on community engagement and outreach
- Centers for promoting reading and literacy
- Support for job seekers
- Facilitating adoption of technology
 - ▣ Provide early access to technology tools not otherwise easily acquired
 - ▣ Makerspace movement: 3D printing, digital media creation and design, etc.
 - ▣ Tech training: basic computer literacy, programming classes

Evolving technical infrastructure

- Technical infrastructure generally centered on traditional services
- Challenges to acquire content resources and technical tools in support of new service areas
- More focus on user experience
 - ▣ ...while protecting the personal data and privacy of library patrons
- Library management systems need to be flexible:
 - ▣ Agnostic to specific metadata formats
 - ▣ able to adapt to fulfillment and access to content spanning all formats, business rules, and copyright scenarios

Library support for eLearning

- eLearning has seen increased adoption in all global regions
- Supplements traditional classroom-based programs
- Opens educational and training opportunities to a wider audience
- Libraries have a natural role in supporting and conducting eLearning programs



eLearning basics

Basic concepts

(State of North Carolina, eLearningNC.gov)

http://www.elearningnc.gov/about_elearning/what_is_elearning/

Introduction on eLearning program:

“Understanding eLearning is simple. eLearning is learning utilizing electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. In most cases, it refers to a course, program or degree delivered completely online.”

eLearning definition and concepts

- Any learning conducted through online or web-based technologies
- Learners are usually remote
- Can also include use of in-library computers and networks
- Synchronous (real-time, instructor led)
- Asynchronous (self-paced)

eLearning Benefits

- Continue working while pursuing educational advancement
- Common in US for library support staff to advance to professional positions after completing online MLIS program.
- Non-residential programs reduce educational costs.
- Can be paced to accommodate other work or family obligations



eLearning Examples

United States and Global

eLearning education

- eLearning can address almost all learning contexts:
 - Higher education
 - Community Colleges / Distance Education
 - Technical or career training
 - Primary education

eLearning in the United States

- Residential model remains dominant for undergraduate education
- ...but remains out of reach for many
- Online programs available for completion of high school (GED), vocational training, community college courses
- Post-graduate professional degrees:
 - ▣ Business administration, library science, or any other specialized profession
- Continuing education: most professional credentials require ongoing education (usually online)

Corporate training

- Most companies have some type of online education for new employees
- Onboarding: corporate policies and procedures, compliance training
- Product training for sales and support personnel
- Product training for customers
- Libraries and information centers often called on to manage or support corporate education programs and resources

US eLearning Business models

- eLearning / online programs mirror educational organizations:
 - ▣ Publicly funded: K-12 schools, community colleges, colleges, universities
 - ▣ Private non-profit
 - ▣ Private for-profit
- Increased emphasis on employment performance (what portion of graduates are successful in gaining expected employment)
- Education often funded through student loans
 - ▣ Can be a life-long burden

Open and distance learning

- Institutions with relevant programs usually geographically distant
- Interest in all global regions in providing educational opportunities to individuals in lower income brackets
- May need to continue to work while pursuing new education and training
- Older job-seekers: ageism and other factors has resulted in many older displaced workers that need to learn new skills to re-enter workforce
- eLearning / Online learning essential to reach non-traditional students



MOOCs

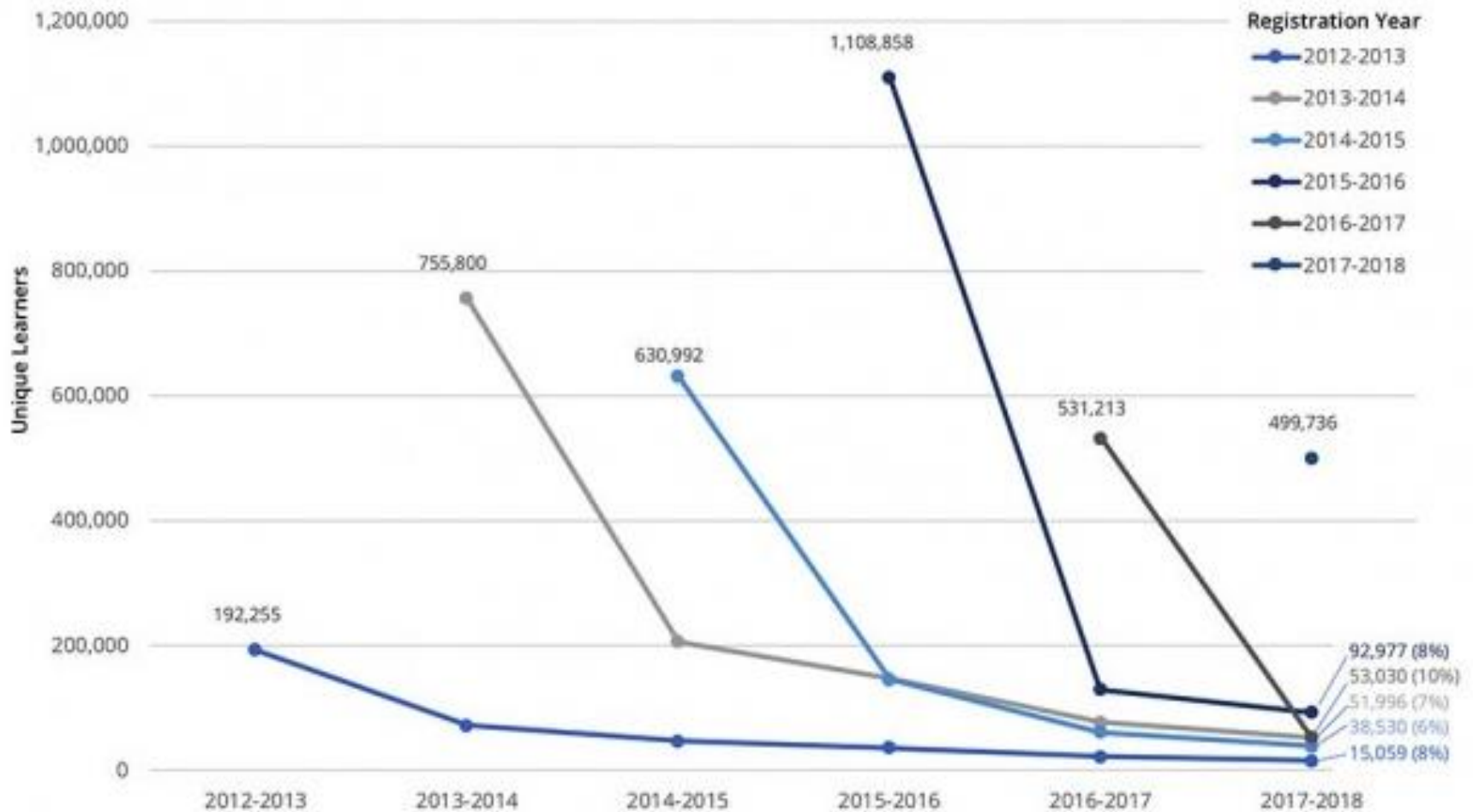
From explosive trend to niche presence

MOOCs

- Massive Online Open Courses
- MOOCs were a hot topic in education beginning in about 2006
- Many US universities integrated MOOCs into their strategic plans
- Idealistic concepts: Universities saw ways to drive their impact at unprecedented scale
- Several companies were founded to deliver MOOCs
- Reality: No sustainable business model. Universities were not able to find ways to justify dedicating their resources to non-paying attendees
- User perspective: Massive numbers of students enrolling in courses, tiny percentage completing courses
- Current business models: free to audit, fee for official certification

MOOC Enrolment / Completion

Low MOOC retention rates and recent enrollment declines



MOOCs and Public Libraries

- “MOOCing at the Public Library” (Dorothy Pawlowski, Library Journal Dec 10 2013)
- Ridgefield Library included a MOOC as part of its adult summer reading program.
- “.. public libraries offer the perfect “meet-up” location for MOOCs”

The rise and fall of MOOCs

- Ideas that seem too good to be true, might be
- Look for at least a reasonable possibility of sustainability
- Take risks with emerging possibilities, but not at the expense of core objectives
- Balance skepticism and optimism



Open Educational Resources

Building blocks for educational programs

Open Educational Resources

““teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions”
(2012 Paris OER Declaration, 2012)

OER Context

- Cost of textbooks can be prohibitive
- Electronic or interactive textbooks have not lowered costs
- Interest developing sharable learning resources that avoid high text book purchase or subscription costs
- Opportunity for educators to create, share, and use free high-quality educational content

OERs and Libraries

- Environmental Scan and Assessment of OERs, MOOCs and Libraries: What Effectiveness and Sustainability Means for Libraries' Impact on Open Education
 - <http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/whitepapers/Environmental%20Scan%20and%20Assessment.pdf>

OER adoption in courses

- “Open educational resources remain a foreign concept to many instructors, but awareness continued to grow steadily last academic year”(Babson Survey)
 - “3 percent of instructors reported they required the use of OER in at least one course -- more than double the previous school year (6 percent) and the one before that (5 percent).
“
- “Slow Burn for OER Adoption, Awareness” (Mark Lieberman (Inside Higher Ed, Jan 9, 2019)
 - <https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/01/09/oer-adoptions-awareness-continue-grow-many-faculty-members-still>

OER opportunity for libraries

- Difficult for instructors to acquire appropriate OERs for their classes
- Institutions need appropriate infrastructure as they make strategic commitment to moving from high-cost commercial textbooks to OER
- Libraries can provide services to acquire OERs on behalf of their institutions
- Develop institutional or regional repositories of OER content



Library Infrastructure for eLearning

eLearning infrastructure

- Authentication services: student accounts and single-sign-on technology to enable access to all relevant systems and services:
 - Student accounts
 - Email, scheduling, and other productivity applications
 - Course management systems
 - Library services

Student tech expectations

- Reasonably modern computer
 - ▣ Usually laptop, but tablets or smartphones are increasingly supported
 - ▣ Most educational applications are browser-based
 - ▣ Some may still have browser-specific requirements
- Reliable internet connection
 - ▣ Programs increasingly reliant on streaming video
- Spaces conducive to study and online collaboration
- Exam proctoring: some courses require controlled environments for completing online testing.

Institutional eLearning infrastructure

- Institutional learning management platforms:
 - ▣ Blackboard, Moodle
- Internet connectivity, Computer with browser
- MOOC platforms
 - ▣ EdX, Coursera, Udemy, Versal
 - ▣ See: A comparison of Five Free MOOC platforms for Educators
<https://edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2014/02/comparison-five-free-mooc-platforms-educators>
- MOOCs business models (low-cost, free to audit, pay for certification)

Library Professional Education

- Most graduate programs in Library and Information Science in the US are conducted through distance education or have an online component.
- 61 total programs
 - ▣ <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accreditedprograms/directory/search>
- 39 ALA Accredited programs offer entirely online options
- UK: 14 university programs: (4 offered through distance learning)
 - ▣ <http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/c.php?g=381026&p=2581763>

Virtual Reality

- Use of virtual reality experiences to deliver content supporting library programs
- See: Virtual Unreality: the Promise and Proof of VR In Education (Bruce Wainman, McMaster University, et al.)
 - https://www.fasebj.org/doi/abs/10.1096/fasebj.2018.32.1_supplement.91.2

ALA Resources

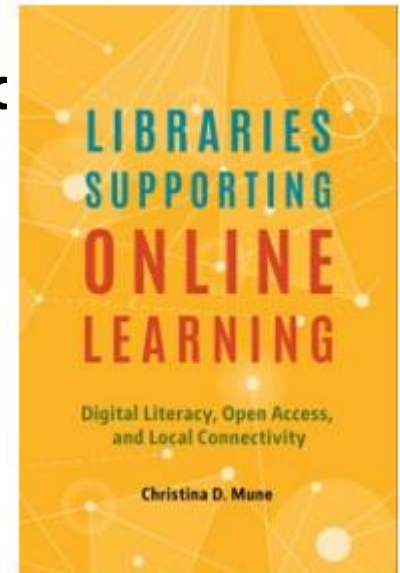
- Example of provision of eLearning resources for professional development of Librarians
- eLearning and Online Learning
 - <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/elearning>
- ALA eLearning--webinars, courses, workshops, e-forums and more--covers library-related fundamentals, advances, trends, and hot topics for all types of libraries. Find the online options that can best keep you and your colleagues and staff current.

Distance Education

- Another category of eLearning
- Many educational institutions now offer programs through “distance education” where components of the curriculum are offered to remote students through online platforms
- Many different configurations:
 - ▣ Instructors also may be remote to the campus
 - ▣ Some have no on-campus requirements for students
 - ▣ Common to have on-campus orientation

Library roles online courses

- How can libraries support online courses offered by their institutions?
- Libraries Supporting Online Learning: Digital Literacy, Open Access, and Local Connectivity, by Christina D. Mune
- “Online librarianship” skills, techniques and resources needed to provide library support of an educational institutions online courses.



Library support for eLearning

- An extension to support for traditional courses
- Collections strategy
 - ▣ eLearning support requires mostly electronic resources (some examples where library ships print materials)
 - ▣ Licensing considerations:
 - may need higher license thresholds
 - Requirements for authentication and proxy
 - RA21 working to establish new models to provide access to restricted resources

eLearning Student Services

- Support for online learning requires business infrastructure similar to Customer Relationship Management platforms used in the e-commerce arena (not widely implemented in library arena)
- Included integration with student profile, analytics to assess performance of service delivery and to help allocate library support resources
- Common Library service delivery apps
 - Chat reference
 - Subject guides
 - Support knowledge base

Trends and topics

- Gamification
 - ▣ Ways to use gaming concepts to motivate learners: rewards, badges, etc.
- Mobile Learning
 - ▣ Apps to enable some or all learning to be delivered through smartphones.
- Micro-Learning (short learning events)
 - ▣ Not all eLearning has to take the form of full courses
 - ▣ Small modules for specific learning tasks

Commercial e-learning services

- Many eLearning platforms or apps oriented to libraries
- Lynda.com (now affiliated with LinkedIn)
- Language learning services / apps
 - ▣ Mango Language
 - ▣ Rosetta Stone
- Gale / Cengage
 - ▣ Online courses offered via library
 - ▣ Free to patrons / subscription paid by library

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Featured library examples

Examples and opportunities

- Online courses and training for core topics
 - ▣ Academic integrity (plagiarism, etc.)
- Scholarly publication options
 - ▣ Open access, subscription journals, avoidance of predatory journals
- Development of learning objects and OERs

eLearning in Libraries Symposium

- “Welcome to the eLearning in Libraries Symposium where we bring together library folks from different sectors who are interested in online learning in libraries.”
- Web site:
 - ▣ <https://sites.google.com/view/elearninginlibraries/home>
- Sponsored by Toronto Public Library, Seneca Libraries, Wilfrid Laurier University, York University

Campbell County Public Library



Campbell
County
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Teaching and Education

Technology

Writing and Publishing

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POPULAR

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2016
Become proficient in using Microsoft Excel 2016 (now available through Office 365) and discover how to create worksheets, workbooks, charts, and graphs quickly and efficiently [Learn More>>](#)

[View More Courses](#)

Welcome to our Gale Courses Online Instruction Center.

Gale Courses offers a wide range of highly interactive, instructor led courses that you can take entirely online. As a library card holder in good standing, you are entitled to these courses at no cost. Courses run for six weeks and new sessions begin every month.

How to Enroll:

1. Find courses by browsing through the categories on the left of your screen or by using the search bar above. Click "Enroll Now" next to the course of your choice.
2. Select your course start date and click "Continue."
3. Create a free Gale Courses account, or sign in to an existing ed2go account.
 - **New Students** - Enter your email address in the New Student area and click "Create Account." Complete the "Account and Student Information" page and then click "Continue."
 - **Returning Students** - Enter your account email and password and then click "Sign In."

You will use your Gale Courses account email and password to log in to the My Classroom area to view your lessons once your session begins.

4. Enter your library barcode in the box labeled Submit. Then click "Use Library Card" to complete your enrollment.

IMPORTANT!

Students who have enrolled in a course must log in and view lessons one and two within 13 days after the start date of the course, or they will be automatically dropped.

Students who are dropped from a course will be able to enroll in the course during a later session.

MyLibraryNYC provides participating schools with:

1

ACCESS TO MILLIONS OF FREE RESOURCES

Teacher Sets; Individual Items; Digital Resources (educational databases & ebooks)

2

ENHANCED LIBRARY PRIVILEGES

No fines on books; Extended borrowing on books; Exclusive use of over 6,000 Teacher Sets designed just for educators; Free school delivery and pick up for Teacher Sets

3

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Align instructional resources to Common Core; Embed differentiated instruction; Support English language learners; Encourage independent reading



Order Teacher Sets

Order Teacher Sets for Delivery to your School - Delivery to your School within 2 weeks for Available Sets

[Teacher Sets Catalog](#)



Request Individual Items

Select your school's borough to connect with your local public library catalog. Request individual items to pick up at the library closest to your school.

Where is your school? ▾



Access Digital Resources

Explore electronic databases, ebooks, and more.

[Access Digital Resources](#)



New York
Public
Library

Bklyn
Public Library



Queens Library
Enrich your life®

NYC
Department of
Education



What's Your Tech Profile?

Find out what type of user you are and discover classes just for you!



Find a Class

Visit the NYPL TechConnect schedule to find a class at a branch near you.

Please Note: All classes are subject to change without notice.



Class Handouts

Access course descriptions and tech guide handouts in over five languages.

CalTech Library

Upcoming Library Events

Postdoc Python Workshop

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 — 9:00am - 12:00pm

What & Who: In partnership with the Caltech Postdoc Association (CPA), the Caltech Library is offering a 4-half day, hands-on workshop on programming and data analysis with...

Caltech Postdocs

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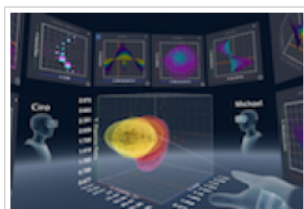
VR Demo

Thursday, January 24, 2019 — 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Experience the VR workstation at the Sherman Fairchild Library! Explore the world with Google Earth VR, view recently added VR experiences, and see how you can develop custom visualizations. There will be time to try on the headset and ask questions.

[View All Library Events](#) ▶

ANALYZING DATASETS IN VR WITH VIRTUALITICS



Event Location

[Innovation @ the EDGE](#)

Analyzing Datasets in VR with Virtualitics

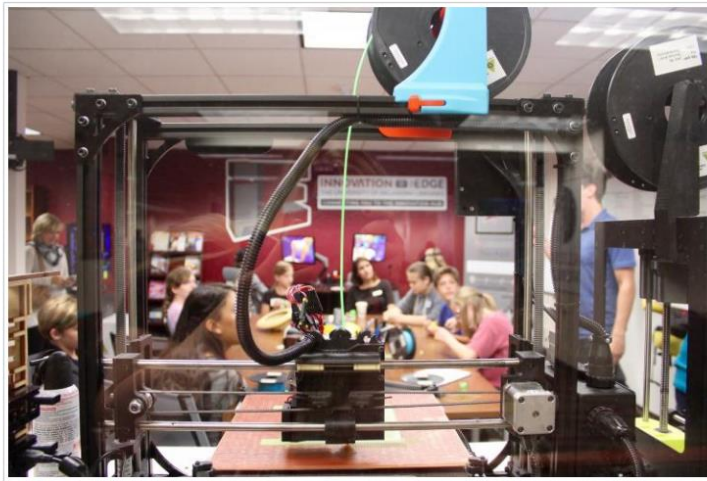
January 22, 2019 - 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Virtualitics is an emerging technology platform that allows users to analyze and visualize multivariate data in multiple dimensions. The platform also includes a VR component, which allows researchers to meet with their colleagues in a virtual space to discuss, explore, and present their data in real-time. While the platform is still in development, researchers at OU have the option of testing out the program and offering feedback through December. Attendees at the workshop will have a chance to learn more about the options available for data analysis in Virtualitics as well as to try the program for themselves. If you have a data set with multiple variables, we encourage you to bring it along in a .csv format to visualize in Virtualitics! **Registration is required.**

[Register Here](#)

 [View All Events](#)

INNOVATION @ THE EDGE



◀ Jan 14 – Jan 20 ▶

Mon	11:00 am – 09:00 pm
Tue	11:00 am – 09:00 pm
Wed	11:00 am – 09:00 pm
Thu	11:00 am – 09:00 pm
Fri	11:00 am – 09:00 pm
Sat	12:00 pm - 05:00 pm
Sun	closed

[Spring 2019 Hours](#) ⓘ

CONTACT US

Bizzell Memorial Library
401 W. Brooks St, RM 126
Norman, OK 73019

[Email](#) | [Driving Directions](#)



Innovation @ the Edge is a **flexible experimentation and innovation space** that provides access to the latest tools used in research, instruction and knowledge creation, including 3D printing tools, custom virtual reality workstations, software and data skill development and microelectronics kits.

Any member of the OU community, from any field, is free to **prototype concepts or fly-through 3D data sets** in this centrally located makerspace in the Bizzell Memorial Library in room 126.

Not sure how to get started? **Attend one of our [weekly workshops](#)**, or stop by during our regular hours. Peer tinkerers and campus technology experts will be available to help you develop your ideas and augment your scholarship with these cutting-edge tools.

Chicago Public Library

- Learning Circles add a social element to what is otherwise a solitary learning experience by bringing people together in person to take an online course together over six to eight weeks, with the help of a facilitator. Librarians at Chicago Public Library (CPL) partnered with the nonprofit Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU) to make online education more accessible through this program.

- <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/44784/online-learning-why-libraries-could-be-the-key-to-moocs-success>

eLearning context

- Indian context different than United States and Europe
- Stronger national strategy for eLearning
- Economic environment may be highly conducive to online and eLearning
- If national initiatives prevail, Libraries will need to provide support for eLearning at massive scale
- Opportunities for collaboration and strategic partnerships

Context for India

- Balance the state of eLearning in India with success stories and challenges seen on the global scene
- eLearning Initiatives
 - <https://news.elearninginside.com/india-rolled-four-major-government-sponsored-elearning-initiatives-2017/>
- National Digital Library of India
 - <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/>



Questions and discussion