



South Dakota Flag

# South Dakota Midwestern Open Education Summit 2026



Photo by [Ryan Phillips](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Who We Are

The MHEC OER group in South Dakota includes both private and public institutions:

- Augustana University
- Dakota State University
- Northern State University
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- South Dakota State Library
- South Dakota State University
- University of Sioux Falls
- University of South Dakota

## What We Have Accomplished

- The MHEC group worked with MNOP to fund the Pathfinder Grants, an initiative to support educational institutions in MN and SD.
- Since 2019, the USD Open Textbook Fellowship has trained more than 60 instructors in 70+ courses and impacted over 12,000 students with a conservative savings of over \$750,000 in textbook costs– with a 900% ROI.
- Augustana's OER initiative, Ole's Open Text, is in its fifth year. The initiative promotes the use of library-purchased materials and OER and supports faculty OER adoption.
- NSU and other libraries across the state maintain OER LibGuides to support access.
- USF had 20 OER courses last year. The librarian attends department meetings to promote OER.
- SDSU and several other institutions track OER use on their campuses.
- Faculty are consistently reaching out to librarians to request OER support.

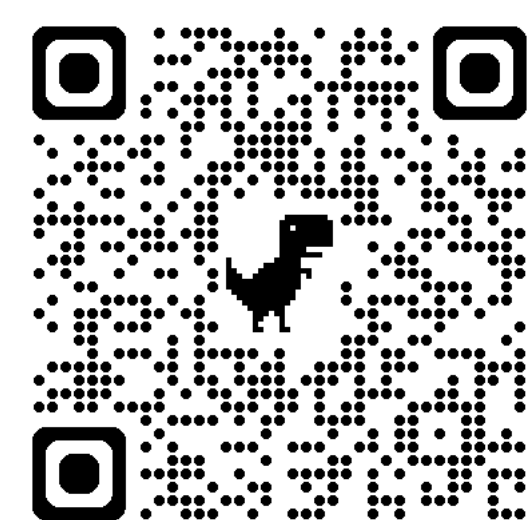
## What We're Working On Now

- SDSU is working on 10 projects using the MNOP Pathfinder Grant to provide stipends for OER adoption.
- SDSU's Center for Professional Enrichment received a grant to fund an OER Faculty Fellow who will conduct workshops.
- Augustana is working on 2 projects via the MNOP Pathfinder Grants: an OER Champion Network in our School of Education, and a Student Senate-led OER awareness campaign. A new business certificate program aims to use all-OER materials. USF is targeting the Graduate and EdD program for OER support.
- USD Libraries received an MNOP Pathfinder Grant to research a centralized platform to publish and share OER content to the USD community.

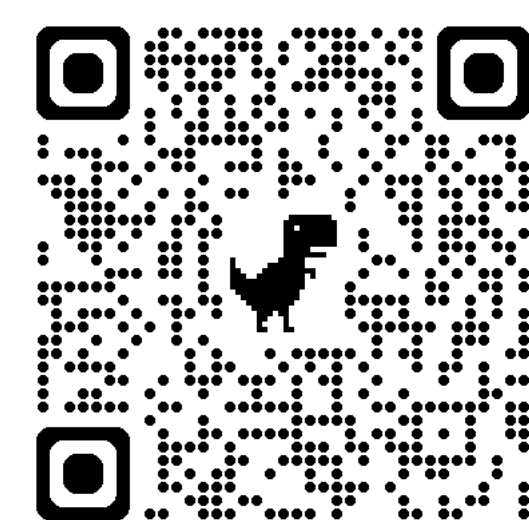
## Long Term Goals, Hopes, Dreams

- Expand faculty support for OER through stipends, course releases, and instructional design support.
- Prioritize high-impact/high-enrollment courses (e.g., ENGL 101) for OER/zero-cost options.
- Reduce faculty reliance on publisher bundles.
- Build librarian capacity statewide by funding workshops and certifications.
- Increase statewide collaboration through more frequent meetings and projects.
- Statewide data on OER use
- Broaden participation by bringing in K-12, technical colleges, tribal colleges, and public libraries.

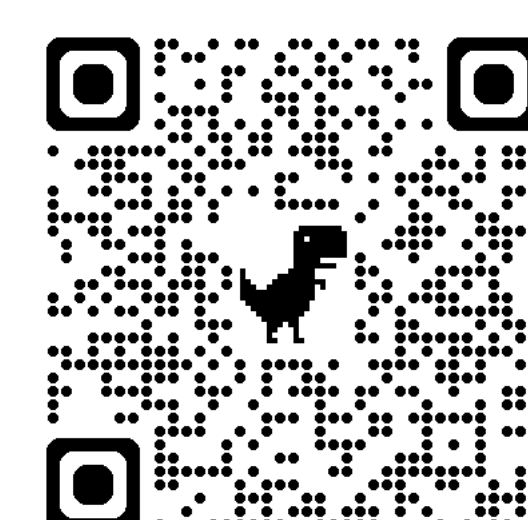
## Resources:



MNOP Pathfinder Grant



OER LibGuide Example



Ole's Open Text



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