

Appendix B - Barriers to reusing instructional materials

Responses throughout the survey suggest a preference for creating guides to linking to guides created by others. When asked to indicate the process librarians use to create online instruction, 47.8 % indicated they prefer to “use learning objects or guides as a model, then I create my own”. Added to that 12% are still creating guides from scratch. While a majority of respondents indicated they had used learning objects, just under half indicated they had either not used them (30.4%) or did not know (13%). At the same time, 87.4 % indicated they would be willing to share their materials. These results indicate that librarians are edging toward using existing materials. Their willingness to share may be the first steps toward this goal.

Two questions examined barriers to using online materials created by others and the circumstances that would make one more likely to re-use such materials. Librarians indicated that branding by another institution was a significant barrier to reuse (52.3%), followed by not being able to find the exact thing they needed (43.0%), and adapting someone else’s material to their needs would take longer than creating something new (32.6%). Circumstances that would increase the likelihood of reuse included ease of removing any branding and adapting to one’s institution (67.1%), access to smaller, curated group of best materials (50.6%), and if it was easy to find exactly what they needed (e.g. items had good tagging) (49.4%). Open comments revealed that permissions and sharing were a concern for some librarians.

Related recommendations were are in section Q2. Is there a standard set of best practices?