Our Signature Mix: The Online, OER Course

1. Specialized Tappers

✓ Subject Matter Expert (SME)
✓ Instructional Designer (ID)
✓ Learning Management System (LMS) Technical Specialist
✓ Open Education Resources (OER) Librarian
✓ Student Researcher (eScribe)

II. Fortified Ingredients

✓ eScribe-developed and Librarian-vetted OER
✓ SME-developed course materials with integrated OER
✓ ID-edited and appropriately cited course materials with integrated OER
✓ Specialist-formatted course materials with integrated OER and proper licensing

III. Assiduous Mixology

Preparation

1. SMEs and eScribes are hand-picked, and their contributions are carefully distilled. Academic deans and chairs are generally involved in the SME selection; librarians and instructional designers select eScribes. A timeline is established for the concoction; depending on the course credit hours, course development takes approximately 6 to 16 weeks, with an additional 2 to 4 weeks recommended for proper vetting.

2. The ID procures sample OER courses and/or textbooks, if available, and the samples are reviewed and discussed by the development team. If the SME finds a sample or samples to taste, some of these may be used as base ingredients or additives.

3. First on the SME’s timeline is the course outline, which serves as a recipe for success. The outline is a breakdown of some of the course’s key ingredients; these are presented in the unit-by-unit manner in which they are served—weekly learning outcomes, readings, activities, and assessments. Tasty.
4. Once the recipe is sufficiently fleshed out, the eScribe is directed to find OER that complements the SME’s key ingredients. The OER is in turn reviewed and vetted by the OER Librarian and passed along to the SME and ID for careful mixing.

**Mixing and Measuring**

1. As with any signature concoction, the mixology process is as important as the palette of ingredients; *when* they are mixed, *how* they are mixed, *who* mixes them—it’s timing and technique that calls for ritual care, and the principal caretaker is the ID, who assures that the SME adds just the right amount of OER—to assure that outcomes are met through the required activities and assessments.

2. Every week, the SME receives eScribe-procured and Librarian-vetted content that is measured and mixed to optimize learning. After a period of mulling over eScribe content suggestions, the SME writes, the ID reviews, the SME revises, and the final draft is finally, formally brewed.

3. This process is repeated in a way that is steady and consistent, until the course is completed. The ID assures that Quality Matters (QM) standards are met and that the course copy is editorially sound. Some units may be better than others, but they all share a refined quality.

**Presentation and Service**

1. When a sufficient number of course units are in their final draft stage, the ID sends them to the LMS Technical Specialist, who prepares them for presentation and distribution. The Specialist knows all the rules of service and assures that courses meet and exceed certain technical standards, such as ADA compliance.

2. The Specialist is also responsible for the aesthetics of a course; the Specialist designs for the flavor of the discipline and is responsible for everything from the shape of a bulleted-point bullet to the size and placement of an embedded video.

**IV. Refined Distribution**

While all courses achieve a certain level of quality through careful ingredient choices and mixology strategies, they are evaluated further by internal content experts, such as chairs and deans.

To assure that courses are sufficiently structured and palatable, the ID follows a course in its first iteration and works with the SME to analyze student (as well as SME) feedback.

The feedback leads to clarified courses that are ready both for external review and expanded distribution.

- Quality Matters course reviews assure quality of course design.
- Only the highest quality courses are selected for expanded distribution.