

A small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of a crack in a grey, rocky surface. The background is a blurred, light-colored landscape.

GROWING OPEN

Cultivating a Campus Where OER Thrives

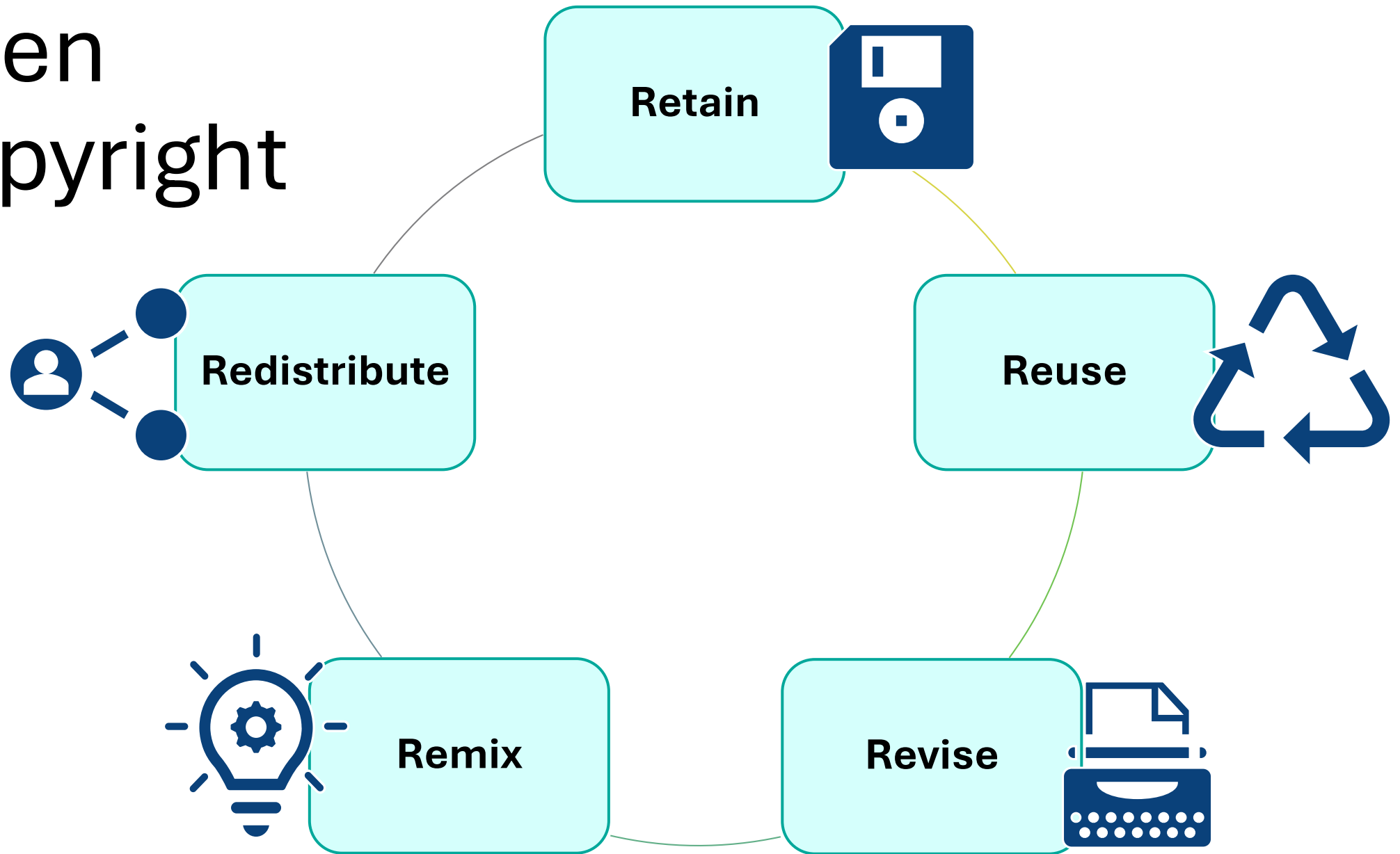
Maggie Swanger

Librarian, Laramie County Community College

Session Goals

- ✓ Define OER
- ✓ Summarize the benefits of OER
- ✓ Discuss best practices in supporting OER
- ✓ Assess risks to OER at your institution

Open Copyright



64.2%

OF STUDENTS



did not purchase a required textbook because of the high cost (Florida Virtual Campus, 2018).

25%

OF STUDENTS

reported they worked extra hours to pay for their books and materials (Hanson, 2022).



11%

OF STUDENTS

skipped meals in order to afford books and course materials (Hanson, 2022).

Benefits of OER

- Higher student success rates, particularly with part-time, non-white, and Pell Grant students (Colvard et al, 2018)
- Use of OER increases students' likelihood of selecting that course (Nusbaum & Cuttler, 2020)
- Instructor ratings increase after faculty adoption of OER (Nusbaum & Cuttler, 2020)
- DFW rates are lower in OER courses (Colvard et al, 2018)
- Students accumulate more credits when enrolled in OER courses (Griffiths et al, 2020)

What are drawbacks or challenges?

OVER
92%



of students indicated that the OER was of **equal or greater quality** than the traditional textbook (Davis & Mckee, 2022).

OVER
70%

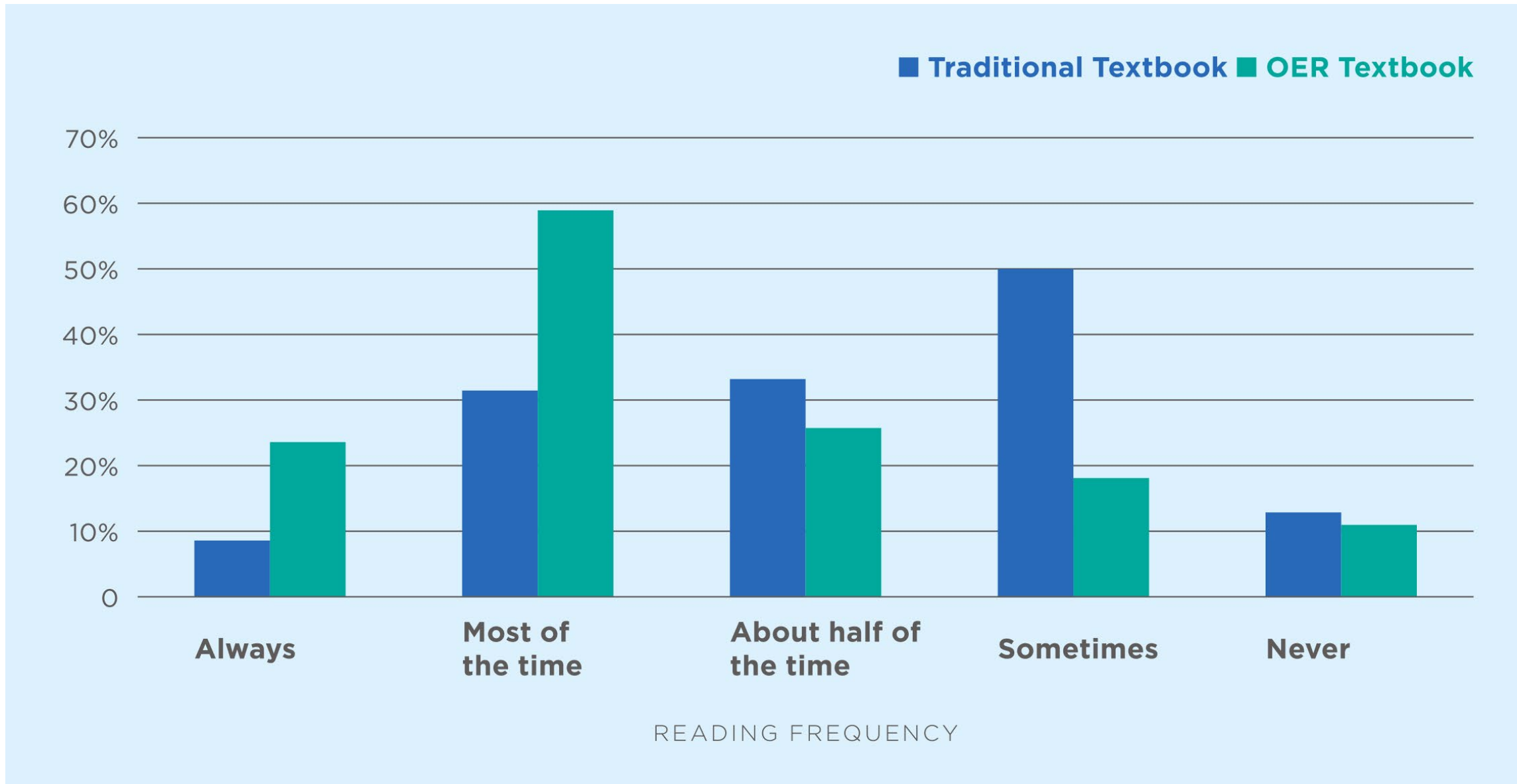


stated that having a traditional textbook would not have made the class more valuable to them (Jones & Nyland, 2020).

64%

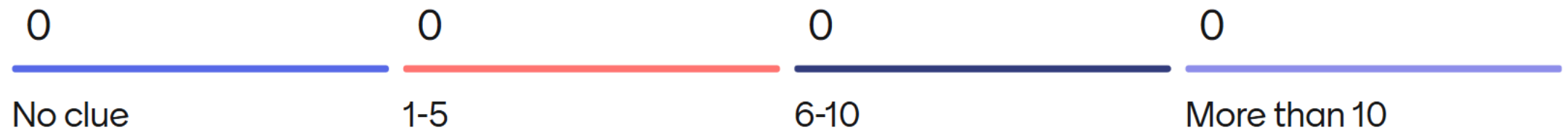
noted that the online delivery method of OER was preferable or made no difference to them (Jones & Nyland, 2020).





Graphic from Watson & Rush-Marlowe, 2023, source: Jones & Nyland, 2020

Does your college have any Z-degrees?



One community college's OER journey

Prior to 2020 – No organized effort

2020 – OER Task Force

2021 – AAC&U's Institute on OER

2022 – Faculty stipends for OER course development

Textbook cost marking in student registration portal

2024 – Promotional [video](#)

2025 – Saved students \$462,708 - \$745,922 through OER stipend program

2026 – First WY OER conference

Z-degree

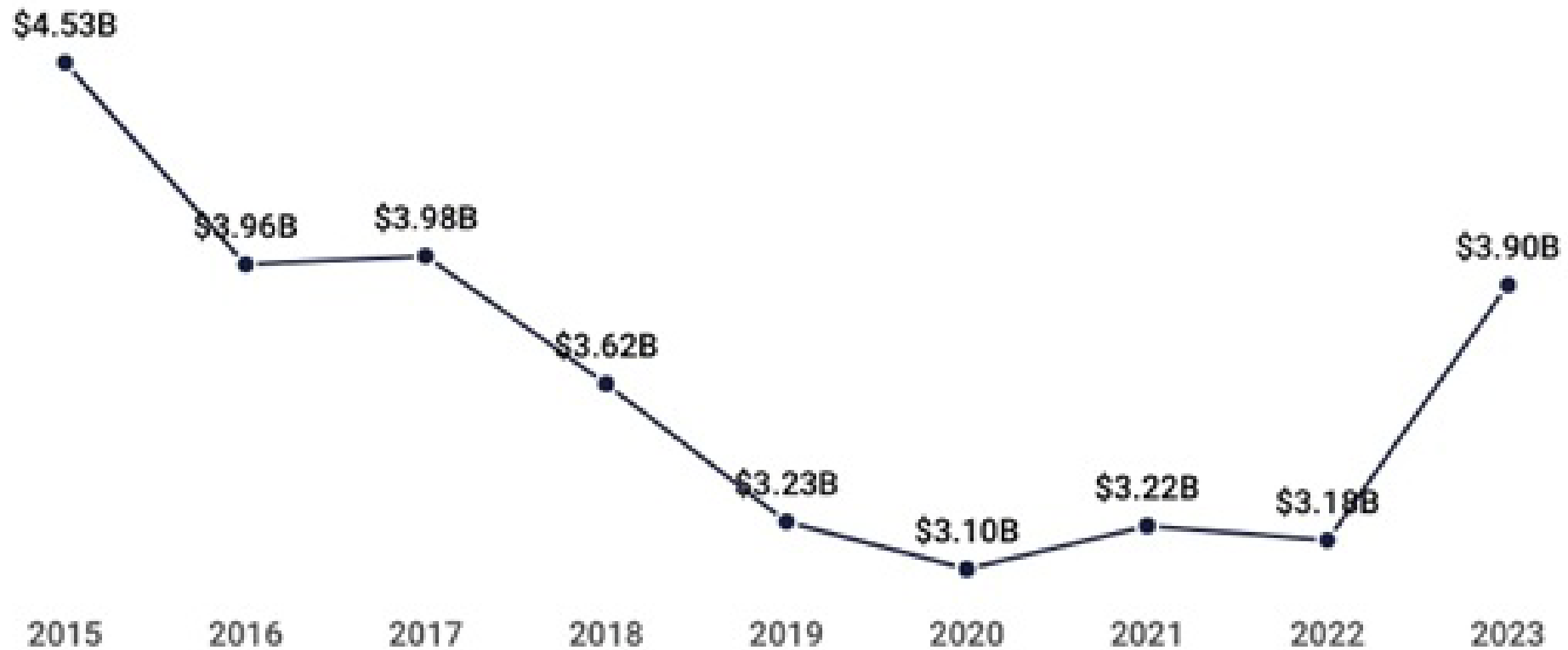
Your OER journey...

1. Any OER programs/support at your institution?
2. What innovative things are you doing?
3. How can we promote OER adoption and creation?
4. What risks might hinder efforts?

My tips

1. Support it (monetarily)!
2. Put it in someone's job description
3. Empower advocates
4. Add OER to strategic planning and voice support
5. Be wary of “inclusive access” and “equitable access” and make sure bookstore contracts protect your OER faculty and their efforts

Textbook publishing industry annual market revenue



From Hanson, 2024, source: Association of American Publishers

References and additional resources

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