**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants**

**Final Report for Mini-Grants**

# General Information

Date: 12/1/2018

Grant Round: **10**

Grant Number: **M27**

Institution Name(s): Columbus State University

Project Lead: **Jennifer P. Pitts**

Course Name and Course Number: **MISM 3115 Principles of Information Technology Management**

Final Semester of Project: Fall 2018

***If applicable to your project:***

Average Number of Students per Course Section: 40-45

Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: 3

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: ~120

# 1. Project Narrative

 **Project Purpose and Plan**

The objective of this project was to update an existing OER from ALG’s Round 3 created in fall 2015 for MISM 3115 Principles of Information Technology Management (Grant #134). Since the original resources were published, they have been downloaded 1430 times by faculty in over 60 countries based on the GALILEO Readership Report. Like many information systems courses, the resources and content can become outdated quickly as technology changes and needs to be updated to reflect current knowledge and skills required by employers. In this field it is especially important that learning material is current and reflects skills and knowledge students will be expected to have in the workplace. Currently over 250 students per year enroll in this required course at our institution and it is generally a Core Business course in most business programs. Ensuring faculty who download and use the materials have access to current content is important given the rapid changes in technology.

**Timeline**

The course content and new assignments were created and updated in spring and summer 2018 and implemented in fall 2018.

**Original Works**

The OER resources used for the original course are located in GALILEO’s [Computer Science and Information Technology Grants Collection](https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/compsci-collections/2/).

**Project Plan Execution**

The primary ancillary material created as part of this mini-grant was the development of new hands-on applied assignments using visual analytics software (Tableau), updated discussion-based assignments, the incorporation of a new low-cost ($39.95) textbook option (from the same author as original course), and an updated course syllabi and schedule. The original OER did not include resources for teaching the software however, with the emphasis on students being able to demonstrate proficiency in using technology for business decision-making, this addition to the course is expected to have a very positive impact for students. The software (Tableau) is provided free to students and training material is available, however, assessments and assignments designed for an academic environment needed to be developed and sequenced. The revised material also incorporates learning material on emerging technologies (Internet of Things, Cloud computing, Big Data) and their impact on organizations and industries (this is one of the course learning outcomes).

**Student Feedback**

Students were provided the opportunity to comment on the new course material and provide feedback on using the new software and resources. One of the key complaints from students from the original grant was that the learning material, while free, was not easy to use (e.g., lack of an index and no visuals to illustrate the content. Students indicated that low-cost with better resources (including mobile access to course content) was preferable to no cost. Students in general appreciated the effort to reduce the overall cost of learning material.

Some students did note that the required “self-study” component of the course (software tutorials) and new material was difficult from a time management perspective. There appeared to be a lack of understanding about the time commitment required to learn and practice the material and procrastination on the part of students caused frustration when assignments were due. This is an area of the course design and communication that will need to be enhanced.

The following are selected comments from students about the new course material and structure:

* *The course material was interesting and I liked almost everything about this course.*
* *I especially liked how the course material applied to the real world.*
* *I can honestly say this class is something everyone should take regardless of the degree because it goes beyond technology. Really great class.*
* *The pace was excellent with solid information that is relatable to the real world job market.*
* *The use of Excel and Tableau is always interesting. The extra tutorials to remind you of what you've learned previously and how they walk you through your new assignments.*
* *Loved the projects. It delivered practical information. There wasn't a lot of "busy" work. Our homework, quizzes, test, assignments, and discussions were enough.*

**Lessons Learned**

One of the key lessons learned from the initial grant in 2015 that also applied to the current mini-grant is that the field of information systems changes so rapidly that it can be difficult to pull together a cohesive set of course materials that does not completely overwhelm most students. Traditional textbooks generally have too much information that students do not seem to retain well. The current textbook selected for the course, while not free, provides a more practical and applied approach to understanding technology in business by presenting the concepts in the context of actual case studies and companies that students are familiar with. This combined with a significant amount of hands-on assignments has improved the course tremendously although these type of assignments can be time-consuming to develop and grade. I have found a formative approach works best with the applied assignments.

# 2. Materials Description

The ancillary materials developed this course are located in GALILEO and include an updated syllabus and schedule, (six) applied assignments, and (4) updated discussion assignments. The course uses an online ebook published by FlatWorldKnowledge.com that is available at a low-cost to students ($39.95). The original grant used a free version of this textbook however parts of the book are outdated and using the current version ensures students are learning about emerging technologies and studying cases that are relevant to organizational use of technology in today’s business environment.

# 3. Materials Links

Materials hosted in GALILEO. Abstract:

This set of materials was created under a Textbook Transformation Mini-Grant for Revisions and Ancillary Materials for a course originally revised under a [Round Three ALG Textbook Transformation Grant](https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/compsci-collections/2/). For this project, a new set of applied assignments using data visualization was created for the Principles of Information Technology Management course and the course schedule, syllabus, and Discussion assignments were revised and updated.

# 4. Future Plans

This course will continue to be updated with new hands-on assignments and discussions that engage the students in active and applied learning. Cases from the Ernest & Young Academic Resource Center (EYARC) which provides course material free to faculty and resources from Tableau will continue to be used to supplement the textbook readings.

Professional activity related to the development of the material include sharing the applied assignments on the Tableau for Teaching Users Group for other faculty teaching data visualization to access and incorporate into their courses. Tentative plans also include the development of a new course focused solely on Data Visualization that incorporates the use of OER resources and provides students with more advanced skills using the software.