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Screening Shakespeare, an OA Web-based Textbook

Alexa Alice Joubin, Professor, Department of English

Project Description

Screening Shakespeare is an open-access web-based textbook designed by Alexa Alice Joubin. The openly-licensed learning modules in this Open Educational Resources (OER) introduced students to key concepts of film studies, such as mise-en-scène, cinematography, sound and music, and film theory within the context of film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays.

This website was designed with the principle of multimodal access, with multiple pathways to the contents and cross-references. Students can also navigate this site, in a more traditional manner, by way of drop-down menus that replicate the experience of leafing through a codex book.

The site was designed with the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design principles. It drew on film adaptations of Shakespeare as case studies to explain these concepts, beginning with formal and cultural analysis of film as a medium.

Project Impact

- Each student saved $262.75. Fifty-eight students enrolled in two courses in Fall 2022 saved a total of $15,238.92 this semester.
- Survey results reveal the positive impact the book has had on my course and my students. Students wrote that this is not simply a linear, PDF book but an interactive website taking full advantage of modularization, dynamic videos, and interactive exercises afforded by the web format.
  - "I love this textbook! It's free and straightforward, it's great that it was designed to be online too. Most of my digital textbooks are just the book in pdf form, so this was much easier to navigate. Love it!!"
  - "It was a great textbook to use and feel really informative. I appreciated it being free as an undergrad student I have spent WAY too much on textbook. I also typically don't love online books but this was formatted in a way I stayed engaged and didn't need to zoom in and strain my eyes. Really appreciated this!"

Artifacts/Links

- *Screening Shakespeare*
- Presented on this project at the 2022 GW Teaching Day

LAI Project Partners

- Noah Bickford, Instructional Designer, LAI
- Cristabel Ocasio Ilarraza, Instructional Designer, LAI