Open Educational Resources: Promoting Student Success through Equal, Day-One Access to Customizable Materials

University of Kentucky
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(unless otherwise noted)
Overview

- Why Textbooks?
- What is “Open?”
- What is an OER?
- Where are the OER?
- How does ALG help?
- How can OER help beyond cost?
Why Textbooks?
“The 20m post-secondary students in America often have little choice in the matter. Small wonder textbooks generate megabucks.”

Source: The Economist, “Why Textbooks Cost So Much”
Average Estimated Undergraduate Budgets, 2015-16

Books and Supplies: $1298/year, $5192/4 yrs.
“But students spend less than the College Board average per year!”

The College Board estimates are for day-one, new, and unrestricted access to textbooks and any supplementary materials.

These estimates are the price you would pay to have the most success in class.

A 22,000+ college student survey in Florida showed the following:

Because of the high price of textbooks:

66% did not purchase a course’s textbook,
48% took fewer courses,
26% dropped a course, and
20% failed a course.

Source: 2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey, Florida Virtual Campus
30% of students in a national 2016 survey used financial aid to pay for textbooks at an average of $300 per semester. This is a total of $1.5 billion per semester, or $3 billion per year.

Source: Student PIRGs, “Covering the Cost,” http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/covering-cost
Textbooks are not the only problem with college affordability, but they are a problem that faculty, librarians, and university presses can fix.
What is “Open?”
The “5 R” Open Definition (in education)

Open licenses give users the power to:

Retain the content (hard drive, bookshelf, etc.)
Redistribute the content (to students, friends, etc.)
Reuse the content (not a rental, no expiration)
Revise the content (for your course, for an update)
Remix the content (with other content)

From David Wiley’s definition of Open: http://www.opencontent.org/definition/
Free + 5R Permissions = Open
Creative Commons is a non-profit that helps sharing + reuse of creativity & knowledge via free legal and technological tools. These tools are not alternatives to copyright laws, rather they work alongside them.

**TRADITIONAL COPYRIGHT SYSTEM**

🚫 All rights reserved

**CREATIVE COMMONS**

- Allows you to easily give people the right to share or even build upon your work
- Allows you to reserve only those rights that you want.
LICENSE TYPES

**ATTRIBUTION**
- **CC BY**

**ATTRIBUTION - SHAREALIKE**
- **CC BY-SA**

**ATTRIBUTION - NO DERIVATIVES**
- **CC BY-ND**

**ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL**
- **CC BY-NC**

**ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL - SHAREALIKE**
- **CC BY-NC-SA**

**ATTRIBUTION - NON COMMERCIAL - NO DERIVATIVES**
- **CC BY-NC-ND**

**PUBLIC DOMAIN**
- **CC - Zero**
  
  This is not a 'licence', but a 'public domain declaration', in which you give up all copyright (but retain 'moral rights' if you can't give them up in your legal jurisdiction), and allow people to make any kind of use of the work without conditions.
Easiest Way to Refresh Your Memory on Creative Commons Licenses:

Go to http://creativecommons.org/licenses. There’s a good description of each license on the page.
What is an OER?
Free + 5R Permissions = Open

Open + Educational = OER
(Open Educational Resource)
“Educational” can mean many things - OER can be many things.

- Open textbooks
- Open videos
- Open music
- Open lecture slides
- Open tests and quizzes
  - Usually w/ instructor-only vetting
- Open images and photography
- Open [Anything you use to teach!]
OER Can Help

OER, and specifically Open Textbooks, can provide a free and open option to instructors instead of a commercial textbook.

http://www.openstaxcollege.org/
Where are the OER?
Start with small collections...

OpenStax College Textbooks
  ◦ http://www.openstaxcollege.org/

UMN Open Textbook Library
  ◦ http://open.umn.edu/

SUNY Open Textbooks
  ◦ http://opensuny.org/omp/index.php/SUNYOpenTextbooks

Washington Open Course Library
  ◦ http://opencourselibrary.org/course/
Then move to bigger collections...

OpenStax CNX


MERLOT


OER Commons:

- [https://www.oercommons.org/](https://www.oercommons.org/)
Also explore these options...

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| No-cost but copyrighted resources | }
A New Way to Share: GALILEO Open Learning Materials

GALILEO Open Learning Materials is a new digital repository focused on sharing free and open materials created by University System of Georgia faculty.

http://oer.galileo.usg.edu
Current Collections

- 25 Open Textbooks
- 51 Grants Collections
- 26 Ancillary Materials / Material Sets
You will find more OER for the highest-enrolled courses than smaller ones.

Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, Microeconomics, Calculus, Statistics – these textbooks are easier to find for these subjects because high-quality OER are often nonprofit foundation-funded.

Foundations measure their outcomes as impact. Higher student cost savings and high student enrollment are always pursued first.
You will find more OER for the highest-enrolled courses than smaller ones.

Upper-Division (3000+) and Graduate courses generally have less funded OER, but also more “hidden” faculty-created content.

In these courses, you would want to share the resources you have created under an open license in order to make these courses more affordable to all.
How does ALG help?
Partnership: University of North Georgia Press

ALG has partnered with the university press at the University of North Georgia in order to create new, USG faculty-authored, USG faculty-peer reviewed open textbooks for courses without an existing high-quality OER option.
UNG Press provides:

Proposal Submission and Review Processes

Contracts & Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

Project and Deadline Management

Editorial Review

Double-Blind Peer Review

Copyediting, Production, and Graphic Design

Indexing and Proofing

Copyright Management, Clearance, and Licensing

Print-on-Demand Services

Accessibility Compliance & Conversion
OER and library adoption, adaptation, and creation take extra time. Faculty, staff, and other experts are already pressed for time.

Textbook Transformation Grants allow for:

• Course releases or extra-workload compensation for faculty and staff
• Assistance from instructional designers
• Support for training session travel

Vector art designed by Freepik: http://www.freepik.com/free-vector/simple-small-icon-vector-material_575034.htm
Student savings are a big deal! One student saving money on a textbook may not seem impactful, but what if you multiply that by 100,000 enrollments?

All rounds to date (1-7 + Open Mathematics):
Affecting 104,550 students/year, saving $16.6 million/year.
Why are we awarding grants?

**External Project Impact**
- Shared evaluations
- Sustainability measures
- Shared creations and adaptations
- Lessons learned
- RPG statistics
- Student savings

Vector art designed by Freepik: http://www.freepik.com/free-vector/simple-small-icon-vector-material_575034.htm
How does an OER transformation make a difference beyond cost savings?
A Diversity of Educational Resources

“[This project] increases the availability to those students... to a diversity of materials that would relate to their particular learning styles, perhaps, or their particular circumstance.”

-Anthony Scheffler, Round One OER Adopter and Grantee
A Sign of Engaged Teaching

“They do contribute... to building a greater sense of community between students and each other, as well as students and the professor, by showing students that professors actually care about them and their personal finances.”

-Dr. Seneca Vaught, Round One OER Adopter and Grantee
“Another student said that [the open course] forced him to do work - several other students concurred. When I asked the students to elaborate on this response they said that they had no excuse not to do their work since the [open course] was so accessible.”

-Dr. Kimberly Wheeler and Sarah Hepler, Round One OER Adopters and Grantees
“[The new set of materials] makes the class more personable with the professor and allows us to gain a different style of learning.”
“This is something that should have been done long ago. The online material is much more comprehensive and clear than a paper textbook would be.”
-Students of Dr. Christine James, Round One Grantee, Valdosta State University
Kentucky is already getting started!

- The UKnowledge repository and the University Press of Kentucky already have a delivery infrastructure for the creation and dissemination of open textbooks, even if downloads are mostly samples at the moment.
  - Even more discoverability through the Kentucky Research Commons

- OpenStax Chemistry has a contributing author from the University of Kentucky: Alison Soult.

- Seven University of Kentucky psychology professors are authors in the NOBA Project.
  - [http://nobaproject.com](http://nobaproject.com)

- The UK Copyright Resource Center has a great set of guides for OER, library resources, fair use, and even a good TEACH Act guide.
Check out our site: affordablelearninggeorgia.org
Thank you!
Please contact me with any questions you have:

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