Open Textbooks
An OER Primer

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#OERFTW
The cost of materials

Textbook prices have increased over 1000% since 1977.

Since 2006, prices have increased at four times the rate of inflation.

Bureau of Labor Statistics
What we get

Version that will soon be out of date. Often worth little to resell.

More than is needed and not all the right stuff.

Homework access codes and rentals that disappear.
And that’s if students buy the book...
Recent findings

“The results of the survey are sobering, as the findings suggest the high cost of textbook and instructional materials are forcing many Florida higher education students to make decisions that compromise their academic success.”
Feeling the effects

2/3 students forego buying a book knowing their grade will suffer.

1/2 students avoid registering and take fewer classes because of high textbook costs.

*Florida Virtual Campus. (2016). 2016 Florida Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey*
Impacts on students

Chart 3: Impact of Textbook Costs (by Degree Level)

Note: Associate n = 4,904; Bachelor’s (0–60 credit hours) n = 4,213; Bachelor’s (61–120+ credit hours) n = 8,463; Master’s n = 1,781; Doctorate n = 784.
Many students use financial aid to purchase textbooks.

In 2013, 7 out of 10 seniors graduated with student loan debt.

Covering the Cost (2016). US Student PIRGs.
Remember the textbook market scam

Captive Market

Near-Monopoly

5 major publishers hold nearly 90% of the market

Source: Turning the Page by James Koch
Actual costs of sharing

In Wiley’s estimates, the cost of *copying* a digital resource is <$.01.

The cost of electronically *sharing* that content is even smaller.

Why do textbooks often cost more than $100?
Isn’t there a better way?
What are OER?

Open Educational Resources

Learning, teaching, and research resources that either reside in the public domain or have been set free by a copyright license that allows reuse and redistribution.
A variety of options
What OER look like
Made by real people

BC Campus Open Textbook Sprint

Collaborative Statistics Open Textbook
Not just access, it's about repurposing too.
The “open” in OER

Free as in no cost for digital version, with print on-demand

...and free as in freedom!

Knowing you can practice the 5 R’s with content is liberating.
Provide a simple, standardized way for creators to grant copyright permissions to their creative work.
Creative Commons

CC-licensed works have tripled in the last 5 years

2015 State of the Commons. Creative Commons.
Creative Commons

2015 State of the Commons. Creative Commons.
Deep dive: SBCTC Open Textbook

OpenCourselibrary.org
Deep dive: OpenStax

openstax.org
“Using OER the same way we used commercial textbooks misses the point. It’s like driving an airplane down the road.”

What is Open Pedagogy?
Project Management for Instructional Designers

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNERS

Wiley, et al.

Project Management for Instructional Designers (PM4ID) is a textbook about project management tailored specifically for instructional designers, intended for use in graduate programs in educational technology. This book is based on a pre-existing openly licensed textbook which was donated to the commons by a benefactor that desires to remain anonymous, and has been collaboratively revised and remixed by faculty and students at Brigham Young University.

pm4id.pressbooks.com
Robin DeRosa

“As students and alums worked with me over the summer to create that first skeletonic text, it was clear something amazing was happening.”

*My Open Textbook Pedagogy and Practice*
Early American Literature

THE OPEN ANTHOLOGY OF EARLIER AMERICAN LITERATURE

Robin DeRosa

An OER Anthology of Earlier American Literature, to 1899

openamlit.pressbooks.com
LTEC 647C

- 100% free access
- Annotation/comments on curriculum
- Open review of syllabus
- Powered by free software
- Downloadable in variety of formats (PDF, ePub, HTML)
Howard Rheingold

"People who think of themselves as capable of creating as well as consuming are different kinds of citizens, and our collective actions add up to a different society."