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Open Textbooks - The Affordable Flexible Alternative

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Where to find open textbooks

OpenStaxCollege – openstaxcollege.org

Open textbook publisher of high quality print and mobile platform texts for general education courses. OER authoring platform is available through the OpenStaxCnx project at Rice University.

MERLOT – merlot.org

A repository of free and open online teaching materials with peer reviews supported by the California State University system and many community partners.

Saylor Foundation – saylor.org/books

A repository of openly licensed books available for download in word or pdf format.

Open Textbook Library - open.umn.edu

Listing of high quality open textbooks and faculty peer reviews at University of Minnesota.

BCcampus– open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/

A repository of open textbooks peer reviewed and adapted by faculty in British Columbia, Canada.

The Orange Grove – florida.theorange Grove.org

Florida's repository of open source educational materials operated with University Press of Florida.

College Open Textbooks – collegeopentextbooks.org

Listing site of open textbooks with peer reviews developed for community college consortium.

CK-12 – www.ck12.org

Math and science open textbooks, interactive lessons, and online study help targeted at K-12.

Open SUNY Textbooks - opensuny.org

State University of New York's open textbook publishing initiative repository.



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Open Textbooks

The Affordable Flexible Alternative

A way to significantly reduce student textbook costs while enabling you the flexibility to reformat and customize your course material.



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What is an open textbook?

What makes a textbook open? A textbook becomes "open" when its copyright-holder grants usage rights to the public through an "open license," which typically includes the right to access, reformat, and customize it at no additional cost.

What do open textbooks look like?

Hard copies of open textbooks look much like traditional texts. The primary differences are that open textbooks are also accessible online at no cost and the hard copies are optional and affordably priced.

How many open textbooks are there?

Thousands of open textbooks already exist and more are on the way.

Who pays open textbook authors?

Open publishing models are still evolving, so author payment varies. Some are paid royalties on print sales, some receive grant support, and others choose to write on their own time.

Are open textbooks high quality?

Many open textbooks are developed through traditional peer review, others are vetted by experts. As with any textbook, you are the final judge of whether an open textbook meets the needs of your course.

What do open textbooks look like?

Open textbooks are similar to traditional texts, but much more flexible. If desired, you can create a custom version by editing it yourself to match your classroom instruction.

Open textbooks are available in both print and digital formats:

- Online, at no cost.
- Downloaded PDF, ePub at no cost.
- Print-on-Demand, typically for \$20--50.

Many open textbooks contain a variety of supplemental materials (e.g., test banks, quizzes, PowerPoints, etc.).

Examples of open textbooks:

Open Textbook Projects

California Open Textbook Project
<http://icas-ca.org/coerc>

Student PIRGs Open Textbooks –
studentpirgs.org/open-textbooks

How to adopt an open textbook

1. **Find the right textbook.** Search the repositories listed in this pamphlet. Use advanced search options to narrow results.
2. **Review and evaluate it** to see if it matches your criteria and based on content, presentation, online accessibility, production options, platform compatibility, delivery options, interactivity, consistency between online and printed versions, and available ancillary material (test banks, PowerPoints, etc.)
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