Open Educational Resources: Finding and Utilizing Affordable Course Materials

Scholarly Communications Team
University Libraries
Cost barriers kept

2.4 million

low and moderate income college-qualified high school graduates from completing college in the previous decade.
Percent growth rate in current dollar price since 1982-84

Source: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

DAVID BADDERS/THE OREGONIAN
College Costs

- Tuition
- Room and board
- Food
- Transportation
- Clothes
- Textbooks/Supplemental Material
USC Student Expenses

2014-2015

- Tuition
  - $11,158 in-state
  - $29,440 out-of-state
- Housing
  - $6,378
- Meals
  - $3,042
- Textbooks
  - $1,008
A textbook case of price-gouging

% increase

Textbook prices

Consumer prices

Source: Bureau of Labour Statistics
Around the State

- USC Upstate
- Coker
- Winthrop
- USC
- Clemson
- Coastal
- Furman
- Piedmont Tech
- College of Charleston
- Charleston Southern
- Denmark Tech
- Voorhees
- Midlands Tech
USC

● Typical Freshman Semester
  o English 101 $98
  o Biology 101 $367 plus an optional $230 textbook
  o Math 141 $231
  o Spanish 121 $213
  o Criminal Justice $238
USC

- $1377 Your first semester
- 190 hours of minimum wage work
  - Chemistry 111
    - $174 plus an optional $476 package
"I have to plan my studying around our library's loan system. You can go in for two hours and borrow it. In one class, I'm behind on my reading because I don't have the textbook yet. You just get a lot more out of a lecture when you have the foundation of understanding from the textbook."
Over the course of an academic career, students report that textbook costs have caused them to:

Not purchase the required textbook 64%
Not register for a course 45%
Take fewer courses 49%
Drop a course 27%
Withdraw from a course 21%
Fail a course 17%

[Image of traffic light]
Current Solutions

Band-Aids:

- Textbook rentals
- Online
- Different editions
- Library textbook checkout

Image [www.studentpirgs.org/textbooks](http://www.studentpirgs.org/textbooks)
Credit Student Pirgs
“Open educational resources (OER) means teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others.”
## What is “Open”?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Free</th>
<th>5 “R”s</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Available at no cost to students</td>
<td>• Retain</td>
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<td>• Remix</td>
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<td>• Redistribute</td>
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Using OERs: Benefits to You
OER Benefits

- Free (or low cost print)
- Adaptable/customizable/creatable
- Many are peer reviewed, very high quality
- Focused on high enrollment courses
- Very little copyright concern
- Allowed to make web accessible
- Makes our required course materials available to everyone
- Students have access first day of class
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- 2011-Open Education Initiative
- Faculty to convert classes from traditional textbook use to OERs
- Students saved an average $125.98 per course
- Nearly $1 million saved

Image www.studentpirgs.org/textbooks
Why is Open better?
Funding

Universities (Rice University, SUNY, Purdue, Oregon State)

Foundations (Hewlett Foundation, Gates Foundation)

Governments (California, British Columbia)
President Obama Commits to Promote Open Educational Resources

Posted by CC USA on September 28, 2014

This week, President Obama spoke at the United Nations Open Government Partnership, where he described his Administration’s efforts to “open up government data to fuel entrepreneurship and economic growth, modernize our Freedom of Information Act with input from experts, and harness American ingenuity to solve important problems.” During his speech he made a new commitment to “promote open educational resources to help teachers and students everywhere.”

In response, Creative Commons USA Public Lead Michael Carroll has issued the following statement:

“Creative Commons USA is pleased that the Obama Administration has included commitments to increase its investments in open educational resources in its most recent National Action Plan in support of the Open Government Partnership. Open Government is about more than

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/new_nap_commitments_report_092314.pdf
Myths

- Online = free
- Everything on the internet is junk
- Publishers add benefit

Rainbowcorn

©Archie McPhee
So I can just google these, right?

no
Consult Library Resources

Attend a library workshop

Investigate LibGuide
guides.library.sc.edu/OER

Call/email us/Book A Librarian
EVALUATING MY SOURCES WITH CRAAP

Currency The timeliness of the information
√ When was the information published or posted? √ Has the information been revised or updated? √ Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? √ Are the links functional?

Relevance The importance of the information for your needs
√ Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? √ Who is the intended audience? √ Is the information at an appropriate level? √ Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? √ Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

Authority The source of the information
√ Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? √ Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? √ What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? √ What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic? √ Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? √ Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

Accuracy The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content
√ Where does the information come from? √ Is the information supported by evidence? √ Has the information been reviewed or refereed? √ Can you verify any of the information in another source? √ Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?

Purpose The reason the information exists
√ What is the purpose of the information? √ Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? √ Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda? √ Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? √ Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

Adapted from the CRAP Test
created by Librarian Molly Beestrum, Dominican University
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Image: http://www.flickr.com/photos/joeshlabotnik/2259639880/
sCoer Faculty Award

A Student Government Initiative to Provide Access to Affordable Educational Resources

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA