If You Build It, Will They Come? Grassroots Growth of an OER Program

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Running Effective OER + Open Textbook Initiatives in Your Academic Library

#ACRL2017 • #LIBOER

Nicole Allen and Sarah Faye Cohen

SPARC

wifi: ACRL2017 pw: atthehelm

OPEN TEXTBOOK NETWORK

CC BY

Open Educational Resources are freely available educational materials that can be downloaded, edited and shared to benefit all students.

Why aren’t we doing this??

Cost of Textbooks Student Survey

Are there any textbooks that you waited to purchase until two or more weeks into the semester because the cost was too high or you were waiting for financial aid? (required)

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

How did waiting to purchase the textbook impact your performance in the class?

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DID YOU DELAY PURCHASING?

Courses	Yes	No	
4	**33**	**29**	53% yes
5	**20**	**12**	62.5% yes

Verified existing concerns that students were not buying books at start of semester

Created a LibGuide (because that's what we do)

Open Educational Resources

Search this Guide Search

Information for RVCC faculty on exploring and adopting OER.

- **Find OER**
- What are OER?
- Discipline Specific OER
- Find Primary Sources for OER
- Examples of OER
- OER in Canvas
- Zero Textbook Cost Courses Offered

Instructional Services Librarian

Find Textbooks

The links below will take you to online repositories and libraries of open textbooks. Open textbooks are free to use and distribute and can be adapted or changed (usually with proper attribution to the creator). Open textbooks can be used in whole or in part; how you use it is entirely up to you.

- OpenStax
  Some texts include ancillary student resources.
- Open Textbook Library
- BCCampus OpenEd
  Includes faculty reviews of texts.
- SUNY Open Textbooks
- The Global Text Project
  Includes titles from areas that are under-represented in other repositories but has a more limited selection of content.
- OER Commons
  A collection of various open resources, including textbooks, lesson plans, assessments, simulations, diagrams, and more. Use the advanced search for targeted results for your needs.
- Online Textbooks from MITOpenCourseware
  Textbooks used in MIT Open courses. Includes texts for topics like civil, electrical, environmental and mechanical engineering; material and nuclear sciences; and aeronautics and astronautics, among other subjects.
- Saylor Academy Open Textbooks
- Skills Commons
  Open educational resources in Workforce Development

May 2017 - Teach Week Workshop for Faculty

Open Textbook Library

american literature GO

Browse subjects Our Textbooks About us

Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature 1865 to Present

(7 reviews)

Amy Berke, Middle Georgia State University
Robert Bleil, College of Coastal Georgia
Jordan Cofer, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Pub Date: 2015

ISBN 13: 978-1-9407713-4-2

Publisher: University of North Georgia Press

Table of Contents

- Chapter 1: Late Romanticism (1855-1870)
- Chapter 2: Realism (1865-1890)
- Chapter 3: Naturalism (1890-1914)
- Chapter 4: Turn of the Twentieth Century and the Growth of Modernism (1893 - 1914)
- Chapter 5: Modernism (1914 - 1945)
- Chapter 6: American Literature Since 1945 (1945 - Present)

About the Book

Writing the Nation: A Concise Guide to American Literature 1865 to Present is a text that surveys key literary movements and the American authors associated with the movement. Topics include

Fall 2017 - Proposal to Provost

Proposal for 2018-2019 RVCC OER Pilot Program – Phase 1

The RVCC OER Pilot program is intended to jumpstart replacement of costly commercial textbooks with open educational resources (OER) in RVCC courses. The initial cohort (Phase 1) will support each other as the early adopters on campus, will identify OER that can be adopted by other faculty teaching the course if desired, and will share their experiences finding and using OER with RVCC faculty as mentors for future adopters.

For Phase 1, there are two categories of award for which faculty may apply: Adopt/Adapt or Curate/Supplement.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

PROPOSAL FOR PHASE ONE OF THE 2018-2019 OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCE PILOT PROGRAM AT RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3/6/2019

Hi Megan

I met with our donor/friend yesterday and had a fantastic discussion about the importance of institutionalizing OER, and the need to take the first step. He expressed great interest and has now confirmed that he will donate $15,000 to support Phase I. It's a go!!

OER Steering Committee formed Spring 2018

Faculty Grants

$500 Adopt an open textbook
(only level available to adjuncts)

$1000 Adapt/Curate free and open materials

$1500 Curate & Create for multi-instructor adoption

- Give students an end-of-semester survey
- Complete and submit a project report

2018-2019 Courses

American Literature	Anatomy & Physiology I	Cardiovascular Conditioning
English Composition II	General Chemistry I	Introduction to Business
Introduction to College Reading & Composition	Introduction to French	Introduction to Literature
Introduction to Sociology	Pharmacology	Social Science in Action with Research Methods

Big Wins

All sections of Introduction to Business

$36,540 savings in first semester

All sections of General Chemistry I

$36,990 savings in first semester (spring)

And then. . .

Low-cost Courses

Courses on this list require course materials that cost less than $45/semester. Some materials may be used for more than one semester.

Course Name	Course Code	Instructors (Last Name)	Catalog Description	Approx. cost of materials
Plants, Humans & the Environment	BIOL 150	All	This course explores the relationship between plants, people and the environment. Lectures cover the cultural, economic and political significance of plants to human societies, and the effects of human activities on plants and the environment. Labs provide a first-hand introduction to the current and historical human uses of plants (e.g., food, fuel, shelter, fiber, dyes) in New Jersey and around the world. Students will go on field trips to local natural areas, farms and winery. One weekend field trip is required. (4 credits)	$10
General Chemistry I	CHEM 103	All	Prerequisite(s): Two years of college preparatory laboratory science or equivalent. Corequisite(s): MATH 112 - Precalculus I. This is the first course in a two-course sequence providing an introductory survey of modern chemistry. Emphasis is placed on electronic structure and its relationship to bonding and the periodic table, the physical states of matter, stoichiometry, molecular geometry, gas laws, solutions, and their chemistry. (4 credits)	$44 - Knewton access for 2 years
Introduction to College Reading & Writing	ENGL 060	Darkenwald-Decola Pipitone	Prerequisite(s): Grade of C in ENGL 050 - Introduction to College Reading and Composition I or appropriate score on placement test.	Less than $25

2019-2020 Courses

Anatomy & Physiology II	Astronomy	Current Health Issues
Computer Literacy	Dynamics of Fitness and Wellness	Feminist Philosophy
General Biology I	Geology	Introduction to Women & Gender Studies
Marriage and the Family	Statistics I, II, Honors	

Primary Goal is to reduce cost to students

Requires us to be flexible:

- General Biology - lab manual only
- General Chemistry - OpenStax plus Knewton
- Computer Literacy - fully OER in two years
- Statistics - piloting Knewton and Cengage

If You Build It, Will They Come?

Yes!
Provide support
Funding helps
Show return on investment
Have a lot of conversations

Thank you!

Megan Dempsey
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Supplemental information from Q&A

Strategies for talking to **faculty** about OER:

- Collect student data/feedback on textbook costs to share with faculty
- Tap into existing frustrations/inadequacies with current textbooks
- Start conversations on student preparedness for class (do they have the textbooks in the first weeks? With OER, they will!)
- Conduct a campus climate survey to determine hesitancies and address those directly (see example)
- Discuss how OER provides greater academic freedom to select the best resources and can innovate their teaching and learning
- Leverage accessibility as a benefit with OER - open textbooks are “born” accessible; OER in PDF form is readily accessible for screen readers

Supplemental information from Q&A

Strategies for talking to **administration** about OER:

- Collect student data/feedback on textbook costs to share with administration
- Leverage accessibility as a benefit with OER - open textbooks are “born” accessible; OER in PDF form is readily accessible for screen readers
- Calculate potential student savings for targeted courses and share this (# students enrolled x cost of current textbook)
- Discuss the return on investment for funding OER initiatives (e.g. allot $10,000 to faculty stipends and save students $50,000 in one semester)
- Share research demonstrating higher course throughput rate for students in OER courses (http://dx.doi.org/10.19173/irrodl.v17i6.2686)
- Point to legislation around higher education affordability