Affordable Course Materials: A Library Primer for Student Academic Success

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Affordable Course Materials
A library primer for student academic success

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March 29, 2017 CC-BY 4.0
Jennifer Thompson, Interim Social Sciences Team Leader
FIGURE 1  Average Estimated Full-Time Undergraduate Budgets (Enrollment-Weighted) by Sector, 2016-17

NOTES: Expense categories are based on institutional budgets for students as reported by colleges and universities in the College Board’s Annual Survey of Colleges. Figures for tuition and fees and room and board mirror those reported in Table 1A. Other expense categories are the average amounts allotted in determining the total cost of attendance and do not necessarily reflect actual student expenditures.

SOURCE: College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges.
So, why does this matter to TCC?
## Cost of Attendance at the Claremont Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees (per year)</th>
<th>POM</th>
<th>SCR</th>
<th>PIT</th>
<th>CMC</th>
<th>HMC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition</strong></td>
<td>$49,005</td>
<td>$50,766</td>
<td>$50,160</td>
<td>$50,945</td>
<td>$54,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Room &amp; Board</strong></td>
<td>$15,605</td>
<td>$15,679</td>
<td>$15,762</td>
<td>$15,740</td>
<td>$17,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assoc. Students</strong></td>
<td>$347</td>
<td>$216</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>$289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books &amp; Supplies (est.)</strong></td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other expenses (est.)</strong></td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total avg costs</strong></td>
<td>$67,057</td>
<td>$68,461</td>
<td>$68,192</td>
<td>$69,385</td>
<td>$74,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of students at TCC who are receiving some form of financial aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>POM</th>
<th>SCR</th>
<th>PIT</th>
<th>CMC</th>
<th>HMC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Estimated Increases in New College Textbook Prices, College Tuition and Fees, and Overall Consumer Price Inflation, 2002 to 2012


From: http://bit.ly/2njTcOo
The statistic shows data on undergraduate student spending on textbooks in the United States in spring 2016, by book type (in U.S. dollars). Among those who purchased a new print textbook, the spending amounted to 255 U.S. dollars.
But really, why should we care?

What colleges, universities and libraries are doing about this.
Affordable Course Materials

Affordable Course Materials are educational materials that have been made freely available, or at a low cost. (vague, we know!) -- Brigham Young University Guide

Open Educational Resources (OERs)

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation. -- UNESCO
Here’s what we’re already doing...

Here are challenges we need to think about...
Opportunity to get to know faculty and discipline

Faculty request: “I was wondering if I can coordinate with you to put together a course packet for my class in lieu of a textbook. There isn’t the perfect textbook, so I have very specific chapters that I want for my students to have some certain textbook. **I need help** in getting the rights to copy and distribute to my class. **Could you help me** with this? I would love to set up a time soon and chat.”

- Copyright
- Learn about the discipline needs
  - Dissatisfaction with available resources
  - Instruction in a discipline
- Relationship building
One of the Associate Deans in the Admissions Office, sent me some information about your work with students surveying the affordability of course materials, and I was wondering if you would be available to talk more about it. I am on [the] team in the Office [Diversity], and I am very interested in students’ experiences once matriculated. If you’re interested, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet – over email, phone, or in person – to discuss the survey and the data you are collecting, to the extent that you can share.
Student sentiment survey - results are consistent with public school findings

➔ I do what is necessary, but **the cost significantly impacts my budget and life.**

➔ I skipped dinner 3 nights last week so I could afford my textbooks for module 2

➔ I have personal expenses such as groceries and **I have to decide to whether buy a textbook or purchase groceries** for the next couple of weeks

➔ Sometimes I would **rather invest the money in gas for the commute** than in buying course materials

➔ In September, **I didn't have enough money to pay rent and buy books, so I chose rent, and bought books in October.**

➔ **Food money has to be used for books.**
Student sentiment survey - implications for the library, for faculty, for the college ...
Have any of you had similar conversations with faculty or students?
What are academic libraries doing with OERs?

“Democratizing knowledge is our professional mission and our ethical and moral obligation, and we do it in various ways. Protecting free (all kinds of free) access to information is one way we enact our collective mission, and the OER movement is part of this”

https://www.unh.edu/it/news/2015/06/oer-pilots-how-libraries-matter

List by state for OER policies, programs, and projects: https://sparcopen.org/our-work/list-of-oer-policies-projects/
Education and Advocacy

Specific positions & working groups

Open Education Librarian, Library Learning Services

The Pennsylvania State University Libraries seeks applications and nominations for the position of Open Education Librarian. This is a tenure-track faculty position reporting to the Head of Library Learning Services. It is responsible for building partnerships and creating strategies to develop, assess, and maintain services to integrate open educational resources (OER) and affordable course content into the curriculum. A significant focus of the position will be on partnering with faculty, librarians, students, and instructional designers to create, adapt, and adopt open and affordable course content at the course and program levels.

College of William & Mary students responded to an informal poll about textbook costs on a whiteboard in Library's lobby.
Education and Advocacy

Affordable Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER): What are OER?

This guide provides instructors a basic understanding of Open Educational Resources (OER), including how to find, evaluate, use, and adapt OER materials for their own curriculum.

OER are 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 re-purposing by others.

Source: The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

For more definitions of OER, see the Creative Commons Wiki.

Important Features

1. OER can either be in the public domain, or under a more lax intellectual property license.
2. OER can be revised, remixed, added upon, translated, and then shared again to meet different needs.
3. OER can take many forms, such as: syllabi, lesson plans, videos, software, tests, teaching techniques, group activities, writing prompts, textbooks, learning modules, experiments, simulations, and course designs. There are no platform restraints.

Source: The Review Project
Faculty Incentive Programs

Cougars Affordable Learning Materials

Call for Proposals
Spring 2017

Now Open

Get rewarded for saving students money!

Attend an Informational Meeting, Tuesday March 28th or Thursday March 30th. Lunch is on us!

https://www.csusm.edu/ids/calm/
Open Textbook Initiatives

Can We Afford Free Textbooks?

When it comes to student success, “new” open resources are the way to go. Feldman.

By Robert S. Feldman // March 27, 2017

Check the comments tho’

The Textbook Affordability Project at Temple Libraries:

This guide describes Temple Libraries Textbook Affordability Project, a program that supports faculty to stop using or adopt an existing open textbook that can be offered.

What is the Textbook Affordability Project?

Since 2011 Temple University Libraries has provided awards to faculty to eliminate their existing textbook(s).

The Textbook Affordability Project has saved Temple University students over $500,000.

The project supports the replacement of commercially published textbooks with alternative learning materials.

This guide explains how the Textbook Affordability Project works and how faculty can get involved.

Discover the Textbook Affordability Project. Learn how to get involved. Join the textbook revolution.

http://guides.temple.edu/textbookaffordability
State-wide initiatives

http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/

2012: In California, Governor Jerry Brown has signed two bills (SB 1052 and SB 1053) that will provide for the creation of free, openly licensed digital textbooks for the 50 most popular lower-division college courses offered by California colleges.

https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2871/Enrolled
What’s going on at the CCL?

- This workshop!
- This survey
- CTL faculty incentive pilot
- Stealth OER education

Student sentiment survey

Course Materials Affordability Survey

The Claremont Colleges are committed to understanding how our students succeed academically. The Claremont Colleges Library is focusing on ways to ensure student access to assigned course materials (e.g., textbooks, handbooks, guides, course packets, and other print or digital learning materials).

Your college and library want to understand how the current costs of course materials are affecting your academic success. What you share here will inform the possible development of new policies, procedures, or programs designed to support student use of these resources.

Thank you for taking this survey about how the cost of course materials is affecting your academic success. This should take you about 10 minutes to answer. Please contact scholarship@cuc.claremont.edu with any questions.

There is an opportunity to include more comments at the end as well as enter a drawing for a $50 Amazon gift card.
Discussion:

Do you have burning questions or comments about anything you’ve heard during the presentation?

Any thoughts about how else we (the library) might support our students?

Do you see a role for us in this OER/Affordable Course Materials movement here at TCC?

http://libguides.libraries.claremont.edu/OER-AFCM
http://libguides.libraries.claremont.edu/OER-students