YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Faced with escalating textbook prices and other financial burdens, many students decide not to purchase the textbooks for their courses. As a course instructor, you can do a lot to help make textbooks and learning materials more affordable, improving each student's chance of success.

ADOPT

- Adopt open textbooks, in print or online
- Place textbooks and readings on reserve at the college library
- Include price as a key factor in selecting a textbook

CURATE

- In your course site, add links to academic content from library resources
- Use openly licensed and public domain web content
- Review, rate, and comment on content you've used

AUTHOR

- Create your own learning materials
- Modify openly licensed resources to customize for your course
- Share what you create with an open license

RESEARCH SHOWS

As the amount of scholarly research on the impact of OER grows, early findings suggest that using OER is at least as effective as using traditional textbooks, that students like using OER, and some findings show positive impact on course completion and enrollment intensity. Here are just a few examples.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE


"Virginia State University School of Business replaced traditional textbooks with openly licensed books and other digital content [...] More students accessed digital open textbooks than had previously purchased hard copies of textbooks. Higher grades were correlated with courses that used open textbooks."

ENROLLMENT INTENSITY


"In two key measures of enrollment intensity [...] students in courses that used OER were significantly different than students in courses with commercial textbooks. Even when controlling for differences in previous enrollment, students in courses using OER enrolled in a significantly higher number of credits in the next semester."

FACULTY EXPERIENCE


Implementing OER in an underperforming first-year seminar at Mercy College (NY) boosts student retention and learning. Faculty collaboration, excitement, and innovation are credited with a successful and quick implementation.
Center for Faculty Development
Workshops and training, and opportunities to consult with colleagues who use OER

MCCC Libraries
Support in identifying OER and other resources for your courses.
https://mc3.libguides.com/faculty-services/liaisons

Instructional Designers
Support for course design and integration of OER and affordable alternatives in course sites.

Resource Guide
https://mc3.libguides.com/oer

BEST BETS!
Many colleges and universities steward far-reaching OER initiatives. Here are some great starting points where you can identify, adopt, curate, and share open and affordable learning resources.

- MERLOT Collection
  California State University
  http://tinyurl.com/merlotcollection

- OpenStax CNX
  Rice University
  http://tinyurl.com/openstaxcnx

- Open Learning Initiative
  Carnegie Mellon University
  http://tinyurl.com/openlearninginitiative

- OER Commons
  ISKME
  http://tinyurl.com/oercommonsorg

- Open Textbook Library
  University of Minnesota
  http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks

- Open Education Consortium
  OEC global network
  http://tinyurl.com/oecsearch