Course Materials for All: eTextbooks in Academic Libraries

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Textbooks in Academic Libraries

Literature Review by Kelly Denzer, Research Assistant, Charlotte Initiative, UNC Charlotte
Literature Review of Course Use Books in the Library
Collection Development Policies and Textbooks

30 CDP found 18 did not address textbooks (Hsieh and Runner 2005)

“confusing, inconsistent, and ambiguous” (Sayles, 1994)

avoid purchasing textbooks out of principle (Anderson, 2016).

varied wording on textbook purchases (Hsieh and Runner 2005)


My Look at Textbooks in CDPs

Library Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address textbooks</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not address textbooks</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not purchase textbooks</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will purchase under certain circumstances</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Textbooks on Reserves in Academic Libraries Programs

- **North Carolina State University (NCSU)**- “Each fall and spring semester, the Libraries works with the NC State Bookstores to purchase at least one copy of every required textbook and make them available on Reserve.” [https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/textbookservice/](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/textbookservice/)

- **The University of Oklahoma-Textbooks on Reserve**- “offers selected required textbooks available free of charge to students.... Our collection of textbooks primarily cover general education courses that have the highest enrollments as well as courses that have comparatively high-cost textbooks. While University Libraries is not able to purchase textbooks for every course, this approach reaches the greatest number students possible as well as assists those most impacted by textbook costs.” [https://libraries.ou.edu/content/textbooks-reserve-0](https://libraries.ou.edu/content/textbooks-reserve-0)

- **Ohio State University-The OSUL GE Textbook Project**- “purchases and provides copies of required textbooks for select General Education curriculum courses via the Libraries' Closed Reserve.” [https://library.osu.edu/about/departments/collection-development/ge-textbook-project/](https://library.osu.edu/about/departments/collection-development/ge-textbook-project/)
Textbooks on Reserves in Academic Libraries Programs - Challenges

Faculty members bringing books in after the library already purchased them, (Middlemas et al., 2012).

The cost to the library in terms of actual cost and staff resources made the project unfeasible to sustain (Laskowski, 2007).

Late delivery of the textbooks to the library by the bookstore, causing students to just purchase the textbook (Beck, 2012).

Books were stolen; security was needed when students did not return the book to the desk after the allotted checkout time (Beck, 2012).


eTextbook Programs in the Library

2014 U of Minnesota pilot- Inter library loan (ILL)/Course Reserve Required Reading Pilot Project, (Riha & LeMay, 2016).

- The importance of multiple simultaneous user eBooks;
- The lack of availability of many titles in electronic format;
- Limited functionality of eBooks including the inability to download or print a whole eBook;
- Digital rights management restrictions when it comes to saving or using an eBook.

eTextbook Programs in the Library

- East Carolina University (Ferguson, 2016).
- University of South Florida, Textbook Affordability Project [http://tap.usf.edu/](http://tap.usf.edu/)
- UNCC- E-Textbooks at Atkins Library [http://atkinsapps.uncc.edu/etextbooks](http://atkinsapps.uncc.edu/etextbooks)
- Indiana University [https://libraries.indiana.edu/linking-library-resources](https://libraries.indiana.edu/linking-library-resources)
- San Jose State Library Affordable Learning Solutions [http://library.sjsu.edu/affordable-learning-solutions/textbooks-available-ebooks-library](http://library.sjsu.edu/affordable-learning-solutions/textbooks-available-ebooks-library)
- LSU-E-Textbooks Initiative [http://www.lib.lsu.edu/ebooks/about](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/ebooks/about)
UNC Charlotte’s E-Textbook Program

Two Approaches

- Mining the current textbook list and providing access to available titles through the library.
- Professor led collection development to enhance classes with unlimited access to course adopted titles.
Faculty E-Textbook Database

Faculty eTextbook Database

UNCC Faculty can search our database of over 150K ebooks to provide free, unlimited user access to course adoption titles for students.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact atkinsebooks@uncc.edu.

Search Database

Title or Subject:

Author:

ISBN:

Search
# The Numbers

## Textbook Expenditures by Semester and Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Total Number of Textbooks</th>
<th>Textbooks Added from Bookstore List</th>
<th>Textbooks Added from Faculty Database</th>
<th>Textbook Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>$14,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>$4,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>$6,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>$6,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Student Savings and Cost per Use by Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Student Savings</th>
<th>Usage (Full-text downloads)</th>
<th>Cost of Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>1,286</td>
<td>$137,406.6</td>
<td>5,906</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>2,644</td>
<td>$204,703</td>
<td>12,123</td>
<td>$0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>$151,664.46</td>
<td>8,773</td>
<td>$0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>2,085</td>
<td>$224,177</td>
<td>14,902</td>
<td>$0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The course use research team plans to put together a survey with sample questions to pose to students.

Here are some examples questions the members of the team have submitted so far:

- How did you learn your textbook was available as an e-book through the library?
- Rate your experience using the library provided e-book as a course text
- What is your preferred format for textbooks?
- Would you be willing to use a free e-book version of a required textbook?
- How did you read the e-textbook?
THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING THE BOOK FOR FREE!!! - Student

I have a blind student in my class who needs her textbooks to be converted to an audible format. It was of enormous help that the textbook we used was available as a pdf file. - Faculty

Just understand that, paradoxically, promoting ebooks through the library is helping to kill the book. - Faculty

I didn’t like the format of not having the book in one document but it was very cost efficient - Student
Other issues to consider

- Affects on student success
- Bookstore sales
- Publisher sales
  - New publishing sales models
Let's Discuss!