
Calculating OER Savings

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Introduction

- Will present information on calculating student savings resulting from OER use.
- Calculations based on a voluntary faculty survey.
- Two scenarios:
 - All sections of the course use the same open textbook.
 - One section of a course uses an open textbook; other sections use other resources.
- Savings calculated for both general education and upper level courses.
- Information on use of OER collected through a voluntary survey (text at end of slides).



Scenario 1: All Sections use Open Textbook

- General astronomy classes all use OpenStax Astronomy textbook.
- Professor who supplied information also provided information on the text that had been used.

Savings = Number of Students x Cost of Book*

- *Cost determined for New (publisher) and Used (Chegg) books.
- Reported a range of savings depending on whether a new or used book would have been purchased.



Scenario 2: Different Sections / Different Texts

- Looked up book(s) being used in other sections in Bookstore ordering system.
- Obtained prices of new and used books for each section from bookstore.
- Calculated average cost for new and used books for all sections using commercial texts.

Savings = Number of Students x Cost of Book(s)

- Reported a range of savings for new and used.
 - Complicated when sections are using different texts they choose.
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What About Advanced Courses?

- Faculty teaching advanced courses are using journal articles and other resources (chapters from e-books) in lieu of textbooks.
- Savings can be calculated using strategy from Scenario 1.



Problems with Approach

- Information depends on faculty volunteering to provide information on open textbook use.
- Can supplement with information from liaison librarians if available.
- Ideal situation: all faculty supply information on books used for classes (commercial or free resources) during textbook ordering period.
- Bookstore shares that information with the Libraries or someone else at the University.



Conclusions

- No matter which formula is used, use of OER at WIU has saved students money:
 - 2018 between \$41,850 and \$76,602
 - 2019 between \$19,935 and \$41,520



Other Sources of Information

- More information on calculating cost savings is available at:
 - Midwestern Higher Education Compact Webinar: <https://bit.ly/2OvMLWF> Slides: <https://bit.ly/2HLy7Kw>
 - Open Oregon Webinar: <https://bit.ly/2HYyzV6> Website: <https://bit.ly/2CDx6Qf>
 - SPARC Study on OER Savings: <https://bit.ly/2U0vZF2>



Questions?



Free & Alternative Textbook Survey

Are you using one or more of the following to teach your classes?
Check all that apply.

Open Textbook

Free readings available through the WIU Libraries.

Free materials available (legally) through another source.

If you are using an open textbook or free readings, please provide your:

Name

Course Number

If you are using an open textbook or free readings, please provide information about the textbook or free resources that you are using to teach your class. (Long Answer)

If you are using an open textbook or free readings, please provide information about commercial textbooks books used for the course in the past. The Libraries will use this to calculate textbook savings for the course. (Long Answer)

Can we include information about you and your class in the Libraries' Textbook Heroes display in March? Yes or No



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