

WHERE TO FIND OPEN TEXTBOOKS

B.C. Open Collection by BCampus –

<https://collection.bccampus.ca/>

A repository of open course materials including textbooks peer reviewed and adapted by faculty in British Columbia, Canada.

MERLOT –

<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

A repository of free and open online teaching materials with peer reviews.

Milne Open Textbooks -

<https://milneopentextbooks.org/>

Formerly Open SUNY. It is the publishing initiative from the State University of New York.

MOM: Mason OER Metafinder –

<https://oer.deepwebaccess.com/oer/desktop/en/search.html>

Metasearch engine searches targets in real-time, instantly returning several hundred relevant hits from each site.

OASIS – <https://oasis.geneseo.edu/>

Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (OASIS) is a search tool that aims to make the discovery of open content easier.

OER Commons –

<https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/open-textbooks>

Free, adaptable, openly licensed textbooks and supplemental resources.

OpenStax – <https://openstax.org/>

From Rice University, an open textbook publisher of high-quality print and mobile platform texts for general education courses. Many include supplemental resources.

Open Textbook Library –

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>

Listing of high quality open textbooks with faculty peer reviews at the University of Minnesota.

Saylor Foundation – <https://www.saylor.org/books/>

A repository of openly licensed books available for download in word or pdf format.

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<https://creativecommons.org/>



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WHAT IS AN OPEN TEXTBOOK?

A textbook becomes "open" when its copyright holder grants usage rights to the public through an open license, which typically includes the right to access, reformat, and customize it at no additional cost.

What do open textbooks look like?

Hard copies of open textbooks look much like traditional texts. The primary differences are that open textbooks are also accessible online at no cost and the hard copies are optional and affordably priced.

How many open textbooks are there?

Thousands of open textbooks already exist and more are on the way.

Who pays open textbook authors?

Open publishing models are still evolving, so author payment varies. Some are paid royalties on print sales, some receive grant support, and others choose to write on their own time.

Are open textbooks high quality?

Many open textbooks are developed through traditional peer review; others are vetted by experts. As with any textbook, you are the final judge of whether an open textbook meets the needs of your course.

WHAT DO OPEN TEXTBOOKS LOOK LIKE?

Open textbooks are similar to traditional texts but much more flexible. If desired, you may create a custom version by editing it yourself to match your classroom instruction. Open textbooks are available in both digital and print formats:

- Online
- Downloadable PDF/ePub
- Print-on-demand

Many open textbooks contain a variety of supplemental materials (e.g., test banks, quizzes, and/or PowerPoints).

Examples of open textbooks:



CARLI'S OPEN ILLINOIS INITIATIVE

The CARLI Open Illinois Initiative is a commitment to facilitate members' use and support of Open Educational Resources, especially training, advocacy, and coordination of cooperative effort for the benefit of CARLI libraries.

<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/open-ed-resource-overview>

HOW DO I ADOPT AN OPEN TEXTBOOK?

Find the right textbook

Search the repositories listed in this pamphlet. Use advanced search options to narrow results. Ask a librarian for help in identifying OER textbooks or other low or no cost resources.

Review and evaluate

Decide if the book matches your needs for content, presentation, online accessibility, production options, platform compatibility, delivery options, interactivity, consistency between online and printed versions, and available ancillary material.

Decide if you want to use "as is" or edit

One of the benefits of open textbooks is flexibility to modify and customize them for specific course designs as much or as little as you desire. If you want to make edits or append content, make sure the licensing allows that. Different repositories will have different options for editing and publishing revised copies.

Distribute it to your students

Select the best format to distribute to your class (online, downloadable PDF, ePub, print-on-demand) via either your campus bookstore or from the online repository.