

Section Header	Description
Institution Name	Illinois State University
Institution Characteristics	Public University; R2, 20,878 FTE enrollment Fall 2019, 74 full time library faculty/staff.
CARLI Counts Participant Name + Job Title	Julie Murphy, Collection Assessment Librarian
Project Name/Title	Mitigating the Impact of the Pandemic on Student Success with Free e-Text Access at Illinois State University
Single Sentence Abstract	Milner Library is examining the impact on student success of providing free electronic copies of textbooks linked directly from each course's homepage.
Motivation(s) for Project	Textbook affordability is a critically important issue that impacts student success more severely with each successive semester as prices continue to rise. With the recent sharp increase in economic insecurity and added difficulty of managing physical access to course materials caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, this seemed like an excellent time to try to provide students with free, electronic access to the course materials they need to succeed.
Partners and Stakeholders	Partners: Rachel Scott (Associate Dean for Information Assets), Rachel Park (Electronic Resources Librarian), Anne Shelley (Scholarly Communication Librarian), Mallory Jallas (Student Success Librarian) Stakeholders: Students, instructional faculty, liaison librarians.
Inquiry Question	What is the impact of providing free electronic textbooks on student success?
Study Participants/Population	Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a 2021 Spring Semester course using a textbook available for libraries to purchase in GOBI with a favorable ratio of library cost vs. potential student savings, and their professors.
Method(s) of Data Collection and Analysis	We will be tracking the usage of the textbooks through referral links placed in their course ReggieNet pages. We will also be surveying both students and faculty near the end of the semester, and inviting both students and faculty to participate in focus groups.

Findings	Nothing yet. Our project will begin in Spring 2021.
Use of Findings	We plan to use the findings to lobby for additional university funding to continue and expand this project in future semesters. We hope that increased university attention generated by this project may also help us develop interest in other textbook affordability initiatives.
Next Steps and Other Results	We have IRB approval, professors are recruited, textbooks have been purchased, and links to e-texts are placed in all course ReggieNet pages. Near the end of the semester we'll be surveying participants and holding focus groups. After we've analyzed data we'll prepare reports for the library administration, university administration, and seek publication.
Additional Reflections	This study requires a significant monetary commitment to perform effectively. We were able to secure \$10,000 in library funds to devote to this study, and we wouldn't be able to perform it otherwise without the participation of individual selectors and significantly impacting their budgets.
Timeline	There were three previous project ideas that had to be abandoned for various COVID/technology related reasons, one as recently as September. In mid-September I convened a group of colleagues to discuss other possible projects. We settled on the current one, then spent October planning and securing funding from the library administration. In mid-November we received Spring 2021 textbook data and began analyzing it to find classes that would be good fits for our project. In late November we submitted our proposal for IRB approval.
Bibliography/Works Cited	
Appendices	This is a presentation given 1/12 at a RUSA Webinar about the project in-progress: https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/fpml/123/