Teaming up Against Rising Textbook Costs

Sandy Avila, Science Librarian
Christina C. Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian

University of Central Florida Libraries
How important is textbook affordability to you?

extremely, I try to make sure the textbooks for my class cost students little to no additional money

I would like to lower costs, but I'm not sure how

I've used low cost materials when it feasibly can.

It's just not possible in my course.
The cost of textbooks negatively impacts:

- Course enrollment
- Student Success
- Student Retainment
66,183

UCF Students in 2017-2018
53% did not purchase a textbook due to cost
21% did not register for a specific course due to the cost of required textbook
Took fewer courses due to the cost of required textbook
Attributed earning a poorer grade due to not purchasing the textbook
What do you think is the biggest barrier to offering low or no cost textbooks to your students?
Obstacles

What is standing in our way?

Time, Time and More Time
Did you know that your librarian can help you find subscription and open educational resources for your class?

Yes! I work with my subject librarian to lower costs for my students.

Yes, I check in with my subject librarian whenever I do a big revision.

I know I have a subject librarian, but I didn't know they could help me with this.

What is this subject librarian you speak of?
Our Goals

To collaborate with faculty to provide quality, free or low cost resources for students without significantly burdening faculty or negatively impacting the quality of education provided.
What can I expect when working with my librarian?
What we can offer you

- One on One session to identify needs
- Evaluate available resources
- Provide lists of possible alternatives for adoption
- Provide access support and follow up
An Ethnobotany Case

Subject liaison to Biology program with well established understanding of role librarian plays

Set up face-to-face meeting to discuss:

- Course syllabus
- Identify necessary criteria
- Identify other titles to consider
- Compare available resources
A Forensic Science Case

Identified library sourced materials available for 200+ introductory course.

Potential savings of over $22,000 for just one course!

Located potential book options through online access to library book ordering system.
The Five Steps to Success

Through our interaction with faculty, we established a five step process to ensure successful implementation....
Step One: Initial Contact

Before meeting your librarian in person, we ask that you email the following:

- A copy of your current syllabus
- What your goals are? (e.g. get textbooks cost down to zero, lower costs as much as possible, etc.
- How many students you expect to be in your course?
- The title and price of the current course textbook
### Step Two: *Initial Meeting*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What level of partnership works best for both parties?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can the library help source materials for the class?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is DRM free ebook licensing all about?</td>
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<td>How will affordable resource influence curriculum and course assignment design?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What's the difference between open access and fair use?</td>
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Step Three: Locate Resources

Your librarian will:

Share potential replacement resources

Collaborate with our Scholarly Communication Librarian and Instructional Design staff to ensure access and copyright compliance.

Explain the pros and cons of selections and what issues may arise in the course of your work.
Step Four: Collaborate

Correlate class assignments and work with course syllabus.

Check through URLs and links to ensure access.

Be available for support as needed throughout the semester.
After the semester is over your librarian will meet with you to discuss:

- Successes and challenges
- Improvements for next time
- Ways the library and librarian can better serve your needs
What We’ve Learned That Works

1. Identify goals for choosing affordable options.
2. Read and review course syllabus and instruction objectives before the initial meeting.
3. Identify reasonable time expectations based on the number and types of resources needed.
4. Ensure that licensed materials selected are DRM free or have adequate seat licenses when possible.

5. Know who your partners are and keep lines of communication open.

6. Ask questions and provide timely feedback.

7. Stay on task and keep up with deadlines
Some Resources to Review

UCF Open Educational Resources (OER) Research Guide
https://guides.ucf.edu/oer

Open Stax Higher Education
https://openstax.org/

College Open Textbooks
http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/
How do you feel about the role libraries and librarians can play in helping you improve the cost of textbooks in your course?
Thank You

Questions....
Contact Information

Sandy Avila
Science Librarian
sandy.avila@ucf.edu
works.bepress.com/sandy-avila/

Christina C. Wray
Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian
christina.wray@ucf.edu
works.bepress.com/christina-wray/