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Patti McCall
patti.mccall@ucf.edu

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TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY has moved to the forefront as an issue in higher education, especially in Florida. A few weeks ago, the state legislature enacted several amendments to existing laws concerning textbook affordability. Some of the more salient features of the legislation are:

- Requiring public postsecondary institutions to report, by semester, the cost variance among sections and length of time textbooks and other materials are in use for all general education (GEP) courses. (This provision expires July 1, 2018.)

- Requiring posting of textbooks and instructional materials at least 45 days before the first day of class, currently 30 days, on the college or university website.

The Libraries have created a research guide, “Textbooks, Textbook Alternatives & Course Readings from Library Resources,” to assist both faculty and students with alternatives to full-price textbooks. For example, the Libraries offer thousands of full-text online books that can be used in the classroom or by individual students to supplement class readings. For more information, see <http://guides.ucf.edu/textbooks>.

LEARN A LANGUAGE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR USING MANGO

Do you or your students need to learn languages that would help them with their research? German? Russian? Mandarin? Improve their English? Mango Languages, a leading language and culture learning resource, is now available online 24/7 via the UCF Libraries. As for me, I'm busy learning Norwegian on Mango whilst sporting of course bunad, my stylin’ traditional Norwegian threads.

The Mango program teaches actual conversation skills for more than 70 foreign languages and English as a second language. It also includes thematic specialty courses, among them medical Spanish, endangered languages (Yiddish, Tuvan), Pirate (“Arrr, matey!”), and the Mango Premiere program for teaching language through full-length international films.

The Mango database can be found listed alphabetically on the Libraries’ database page: <http://guides.ucf.edu/databases>.

MANAGE YOUR RESEARCH PROFILE

Looking to create a faculty profile that highlights your scholarly and creative works? SelectedWorks is the ideal platform for individual faculty pages. As a part of our digital institutional repository, STARS, SelectedWorks is designed to maximize the readership and impact of your works. Here are some highlights of SelectedWorks:

- Allows the flexibility to present your work in a manner that makes the most sense to you.
- Ideal for multimedia content, books, gray literature, editorials, conference presentations, supplemental content, datasets, and anything else you would like to share.
- Optimized for search engine discovery, increasing readership to the everyday public, as well as researchers in your discipline.
- Offers author dashboard with monthly download e-mails, on demand access to metrics, and a readership map.

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