



# OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) EXPLORING FREE TEXTBOOKS

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# Agenda



- Welcome
- Definition of Open Educational Resources (“OER”)
- Need for OER
- Benefits of OER
- Test Drive OER
- De-brief OER Test Drives

# What are OER?



- Teaching and learning resources
  - ▣ Learning objects (e.g., videos, tests, lessons)
  - ▣ Textbooks
  - ▣ Courses
- Online
- Free (or low cost if printed)
  - ▣ Permission for open use
- Flexible
  - ▣ Often with permission to use, adapt, share (retain, reuse, revise, remix, redistribute)

# What can OER enable?



- Customization
  - ▣ Faculty & students can critique, contribute
- Interactivity (some resources)
- New relationship with course content
  - ▣ Knowledge as created and revised
- Potential improvement in student success and persistence

<http://er.educause.edu/articles/2015/11/pedagogy-technology-and-the-example-of-open-educational-resources>

<http://er.educause.edu/articles/2015/11/~link.aspx?id=A9E33353632C4294AD6B6D8C3CE312D1&z=z>

# Why Open Educational Resources?



- Publishers are increasingly the problem
  - ▣ 5 major publishing conglomerates control 80% of the market
  - ▣ All traditional scholarly publishing is dysfunctional
  - ▣ Both professors and libraries are getting ripped off
  
- The cost of textbooks have skyrocketed
  - ▣ By 73% since 2006
  - ▣ Over 4 times inflation each year

# Why OER?



## ➤ Students

### ➤ Free textbooks reduces costs

- Lindschield and Adhikari, “Online and campus college students like using an open education resource instead of a traditional textbook”

[http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/lindshield\\_0313.htm](http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/lindshield_0313.htm)

### ➤ Improves student outcomes

- Feldstein, et al, “Open textbooks and increased student access and outcomes”

[http://www.eurodl.org/index.php?p=archives&year=2012&halfyear=2&article=533.](http://www.eurodl.org/index.php?p=archives&year=2012&halfyear=2&article=533)

# Why OER?



## □ Students

- Pay \$1298/year on average for textbooks
- 30% (5.2 million U.S. undergraduates) use financial aid (\$3.15 billion per year) to purchase their required textbooks
- Master of Science + bachelors, averaged \$50,400 in debt
- 76% of ONU graduates had loans averaging \$32,906 in 2014
- Two-thirds of students skipped purchasing textbooks due to cost and half say it impacts which courses they take

# OER Benefits

- Increased capacity to support remote students
- It's flexible
- Available for free online (free to download)
- Affordable to print
- Customizable and remixable (cobble together parts of different OER textbooks to fit your needs)
- Write your own chapter to an existing OER textbook
- Efficiencies in content production (particularly around generic content that can be used across subject areas)



# Free Textbooks Available Online



- There are many textbooks already available online that you and your students can use for free
- Courses commonly taught at all universities are covered, but you may find courses that are more unique have free textbooks out there as well
- Let's get online and look!