



Opening Knowledge

Resources for Open Research and Teaching at
Virginia Tech and Beyond

Open Knowledge Committee, University Libraries
June 2022



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The Language of Open

Open Access

Open access refers to peer-reviewed research that is openly available and openly licensed. Open access can be achieved by publishing in an open access venue or archiving a version in an online repository.

Open Source

Open source refers to software that is free to use and reuse at no cost. Open Source software is made openly available under a license that allows anyone to access, use, share, and modify it without needing to ask permission.

Open Data

Open data refers to data that is openly available and openly licensed. Open data is free to everyone to use and re-use as they want, without restrictions.

Open Education

Open Education includes tools, practices, and resources that leverage knowledge sharing, technology, open licenses, and collaboration in service of learning. Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely and publicly available teaching, learning, and research resources (e.g. simulations, textbooks, or videos) in the public domain or openly licensed.

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Open Access - Open Knowledge at VT

At the University Libraries we've always been committed to the principle of access — access to information across a wide spectrum of disciplines in service to the Virginia Tech community. Today this commitment to access remains stronger than ever, further emboldened by the advent of new technologies that make possible unprecedented distribution of knowledge via the Internet, free of charge to all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds throughout the world.

We believe that openness is the future of higher education. Openness ensures greater dissemination, inclusiveness, and integrity for the advancement of knowledge and the education of the next generation. While not all knowledge can be open, we believe that the vast majority can and should be.

This booklet introduces a few of the many open resources you can find in and through the Library. The first section, “For Scholars,” highlights the wealth of open scholarship in the Library’s collections as well as tools we make available to researchers for writing and publishing open scholarship. The second section, “For Instructors and Students,” focuses on tools and resources specifically aimed at making learning accessible, abundant, and customizable for all.

These resources, tools, and services, plus a great deal more, can be found on the Library website by visiting lib.vt.edu/open-access and Open@VT, blogs.lib.vt.edu/openvt.

Throughout the booklet tools and resources marked in grey, orange, and maroon indicate the following:



Maroon are resources created at VT.



Orange are resources provided by VT.



Grey are tools supported by VT.

For Scholars

Open access allows for researchers all over the world to find a publication online and cost-free. Scholarship can be made open access in two ways, through publishing or depositing a version.

Over the years the Library has allocated a growing portion of the collections budget to the production and the unlatching of open access scholarship. We believe that by supporting these open access efforts we are promoting innovation, diversification of scholarly publishing models, and reducing barriers to information. Here are some of the initiatives we support.



Virginia Tech's new **Open Access Policy** enables authors to legally provide open access to the accepted version (not the journal's published version) of the scholarly article, regardless of what your copyright transfer agreement says (a very small number of publishers may require you to waive the policy). Find out more at guides.lib.vt.edu/oapolicy/.



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The Library's financial contributions to **SCOAP3** (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) have helped convert key journals in the field of high-energy physics to open access at no cost to authors. SCOAP3 journals are open for any scientist to publish in without any financial barriers. Visit scoap3.org.



The Library is a member of **arXiv**, an automated archive and distribution server for articles in physics, mathematics, computer science, nonlinear sciences, quantitative biology, quantitative finance, statistics, electrical engineering, systems science, and economics. Authors can submit and update their articles to arXiv for users to retrieve through the website. Visit arxiv.org.



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More tools we recommend

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Visit zotero.org or
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Funding Opportunities Available at VT <<<



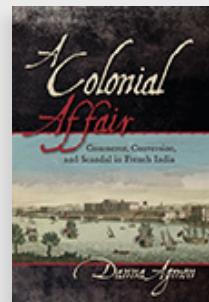
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TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem), a 5-year pilot project Virginia Tech is participating in, supports the publication of long-form, peer-reviewed scholarship by faculty members in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Grants in the amount of \$15,000 (baseline) are awarded to the publisher so that an open access version of the monograph can be published online. The pilot runs through December 2022. For more information visit openmonographs.org or contact Peter Potter (Publishing Director): pjp33@vt.edu.



One example of a TOME-funded book is *A Colonial Affair* by Danna Agmon (History), published by Cornell University Press in 2017. An open access edition of the book can be found on a number of sites including Project Muse, JSTOR, and VTechWorks (hdl.handle.net/10919/85229).



For Instructors and Students

Open Educational Practices (OEP) leverage new ideas in teaching and learning as well as the use and creation of open educational resources to facilitate deeper engagement and learning. The University encourages and supports the use of **Open Educational Resources** (OER) because they reduce the high costs of education for students while giving instructors more freedom to create and adapt course materials through the use of open licenses. Here are a few tools for instructors and students to find and create OER followed by funding opportunities for VT faculty to customize or produce their own OER.

Virginia Tech's Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Textbooks define and describe the benefits of OER, guidelines for use, standards for evaluation, and resources for faculty. The Guidelines were approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors in June 2020.

[https://policies.vt.edu/assets/guidelines-for-open-educational-resources-\(oer\)-and-open-textbooks.pdf](https://policies.vt.edu/assets/guidelines-for-open-educational-resources-(oer)-and-open-textbooks.pdf)

-  The **OER Overview** is a Library-curated guide and an excellent starting point if you have questions about OER. It provides an overview of existing OER collections in various disciplines and also includes information about Creative Commons licenses, copyright, and the public domain. Access the guide at guides.lib.vt.edu/oer.
-  **Odyssey** is a learning object and educational resources repository created and maintained by the Library. It features videos, handouts, infographics, lesson plans, and more. Visit odyssey.lib.vt.edu or contact odyssey@vt.edu.
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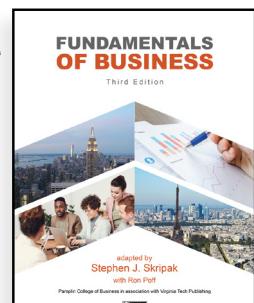
Funding Opportunities Available at VT <<<



Through the **Open Education Initiative Faculty Grants**, the Library supports the adaptation and creation of new, freely available, and openly licensed course material through this competitive grant program. Virginia Tech faculty are invited to apply. For complete information on the Open Education Initiative Grants, see guides.lib.vt.edu/oer/grants.



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Resources and Contacts





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