The high textbook costs is presenting significant challenges for students attending colleges and universities. This presentation will focus on how the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) are offering one way to address these high costs. Information will be presented on the current Open Textbook Initiative taking place in the system.
BACKGROUND

High textbook costs is presenting significant challenges for students attending colleges and universities. One movement to address these high costs is through the creation and use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Open Textbooks.

Open Textbooks are real, complete textbooks licensed so faculty and students can freely use, adapt, and distribute the materials.

To engage faculty in the possibilities of using Open Textbooks, the system office has started an effort to increase awareness and peer review of Open Textbooks by faculty from selected high enrollment/high cost textbook disciplines. The goals of the project are for faculty to identify opportunities and barriers involved in adopting these types of materials for use in their classes.
Open Educational Resources

March 18, 2015

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.

Todd Digby
System Director of Academic Technology

Kim Lynch, Ph.D.
Senior System Director of Educational Innovations

Cheryl Neudauer, Ph.D.
Instructor of Biology at Minneapolis Community and Technical College
A challenging textbook environment (with many opportunities)

Average textbook prices (National data)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-year public</td>
<td>$727</td>
<td>$850</td>
<td>$1,182*</td>
<td>$1,270*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-year public</td>
<td>$786</td>
<td>$942</td>
<td>$1,168*</td>
<td>$1,207*</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-year private</td>
<td>$807</td>
<td>$935</td>
<td>$1,213*</td>
<td>$1,253*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: College Board Annual Survey of Colleges, average prices for full-time, full-year students
* Costs for books and supplies – does not include fees.
Textbook Options: 1990s

When I was in university in the early 1990s.

Only one option: the campus bookstore

New and sometimes used

Textbook Options: Today

Today

Many options and formats

• Buy new
• Buy used
• Rent new
• Rent used
• Buy digital
• Rent digital
  • 90, 120, 180 days
• Buy loose leaf version
Consequences to students

Student textbook decisions

- 60%+ do not purchase textbooks at some point due to cost
- 35% take fewer courses due to textbook cost
- 31% choose not to register for a course due to textbook cost
- 23% regularly go without textbooks due to cost
- 14% have dropped a course due to a textbook cost
- 10% have withdrawn from a course due to textbook cost

Source: 2012 student survey by Florida Virtual Campus
Student textbook decisions

23% regularly do not buy a textbook for a class

Open educational resources
Open Educational Resources

What are Open Educational Resources?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge.

What are Open Textbooks?

Open textbooks are real, complete textbooks licensed so faculty and students can freely use, adapt, and distribute the material. Open textbooks can be downloaded for no cost, or printed inexpensively.

Open textbooks

FREE professional-grade textbooks,
Open textbooks

Open textbook awareness

FACULTY AWARENESS - 2014

- 65.9%
- 15.2%
- 13.8%
- 5.1%

NOT AWARE
SOMewhat AWARE
AWARE
VERY AWARE

Open textbook initiative

- Awareness
- Locating materials
- Quality concerns
- Faculty support

www.asa.mns cu.edu/open
Open textbook initiative

Faculty participation by discipline

Accounting  6
Biology     20
Mathematics 19
Psychology  7

Open textbook network

open.umn.edu
Current examples

Evan Bibbee, a faculty member at MSU, Mankato has implemented the use of open textbooks for his first-year French classes. Last year this amounted to an estimated savings of $24,600 for his students.

Gary Payne, a Sociology instructor from Central Lakes College, has developed his own online textbook for use in his class. Central Lakes College students benefit from his work and see significant savings over having to purchase a regular publisher textbook.

Current examples

Colleges are starting to use GPS LifePlan as their main or only textbook for their First Year Experience/College Success Courses and Career Classes.

Estimated textbook savings

Century College: $56,000
Lake Superior College: $67,000
Next steps

• Develop a campus/departmental workgroup that involves multiple stakeholders across campus
• Ensure that faculty are supported in their efforts
• Facilitate campus-based peer review efforts

Faculty perspective

Cheryl Neudauer, Ph.D.
Instructor of Biology at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.
Discussion

- Do you have any questions about OER or the efforts under way?
- Are we going in the right direction?
- Do you have suggestions?