

# LOWERING THE ACTIVATION ENERGY TO PARTICIPATE IN TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY STRATEGIES

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There are a number of barriers that faculty face when thinking about adopting textbook affordability measures. How can we, as librarians and instructional designers, help them take the first step quicker and more easily?

## TIME

Many instructors cite time as the primary barrier to implementing Textbook Affordability measures. (Jung & Hong, 2016; Kinskey & Miller, 2019)

## AVAILABILITY

Faculty indicate that they often struggle to find relevant or quality OER or OER for their particular topic (Jung & Hong, 2016; Kinskey & Miller, 2019)

### Focus on Library Resources

We have found it more effective to focus on library resources rather than just OER. In the Fall of 2021, 467 books and eBooks were available in the library that matched titles required for courses. That doesn't include digital media resources. 1:1 replacements using library resources is an easy "win" for textbook affordability!

### Textbook Analysis

Each semester, we conduct a comprehensive textbook analysis to identify trends and to match titles with our library holdings.

### OpenStax Course Shells

We built 40 course cartridges for the D2L Brightspace platform from the available OpenStax titles and shared them back with OpenStax, providing an easy starting point for university faculty. We will continue to add to the collection as new and updated course cartridges are published.

### Anthologies

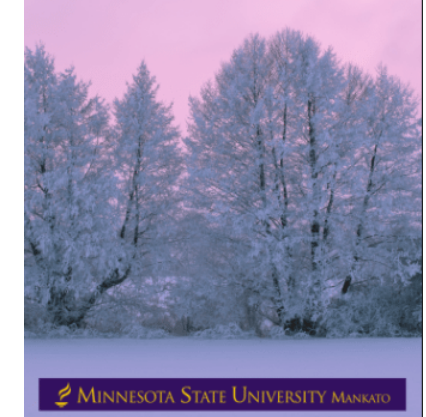
Based on our Textbook Analysis, we created anthologies of Public Domain works to match course reading lists. <https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/oer/>

### Textbooks and Course Reserves Website

The Textbook and Course Reserves website helps students explore all options for finding textbooks, including library resources.

<https://libguides.mnsu.edu/er.php?b=c>

### Textbook Affordability Starter Kit



We adapted Abby Elder's OER Starter Kit to help our faculty get started. <https://minnstate.pressbooks.pub/textbookaffordability/>

### Conclusion

We have created several entry points for faculty to make it easy to implement textbook affordability measures. 1:1 replacement with library resources; fully created OpenStax course shells; and public domain anthologies. Additional resources such as strategy guides and course material websites also assist in the OER adoption process in addition to helping students find options to purchasing course materials.

### MavLearn

We created a series of documents to help faculty adopt more Open strategies

<https://link.mnsu.edu/oer>

### OER LibGuide

Library Services created a LibGuide to help faculty find OER and consider library resources as textbook affordability measures.

<https://libguides.mnsu.edu/c.php?g=927392&p=6681639>

#### RELATED LITERATURE

Jung, I., & Hong, S. (2016). Faculty members' instructional priorities for adopting OER. *The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*, 17(6).

Kinskey, C., & Miller, C. L. (2019). Creating Faculty Development on OER. *The International Journal of Open Educational Resources*, 1(2), 25060.

