Textbook Affordability:

OER, Libraries, and Other Steps Along the Way

2019 Spring ASA Equity & Inclusion Conference
June 6, 2019
Who we are

Beth Clausen (she/her/hers)
Dean of Library & Information Services, Metropolitan State University

Rhonda Huisman (she/her/hers)
Dean of University Library - St. Cloud State University

Daardi Sizemore Mixon (she/her/hers)
Interim Dean of Library Services - Minnesota State University, Mankato
Land Acknowledgment

We stand today on native lands and recognize and honor the Anishinaabe and Dakota nations.
Textbook affordability

- Since 2006, the cost of a college textbook increased by 73%
- Textbook prices add unnecessary financial hardship
  - 29.7% of students use financial aid to pay for textbooks
  - $3.15 Billion a year in financial aid on textbooks
- Accessibility implications (and costs) for publisher textbooks (and related platforms)
- Textbooks and course materials are not the only costs - and not the only costs that have risen dramatically

Source: Student PIRG. Covering the Cost: Why We can No Longer Afford to Ignore High Textbook Prices. 2016
Impact of Textbook Costs on Students

- Take Fewer Courses: 42.8%
- Don't Register for a Specific Course: 40.5%
- Drop a Course: 22.9%
- Earn a Poor Grade Because I Could Not Afford to Buy the Textbook: 35.6%
- Don't Purchase the Required Textbook: 64.2%

Information from the Florida Virtual Campus study 2018

Florida Virtual Campus Study 2018
Affordable Textbook Options

- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Inclusive Access - Textbooks online, available first day of class
- All-in-One Subscription Digital Access - Access to a publisher's catalog of textbooks for one price. (Cengage Unlimited)
- Textbook Rentals
- Library Reserves/Collections
- Custom Course Packs
- Blend of options
Open Education Resources

What are they? At their most basic, they are high quality academic materials of available freely for download, editing, and sharing with the intent to better serve all students.

- National Landscape and Trends
- System initiatives
National Trends

• California
  ○ “Textbook Affordability Act” (AB798)(2015):
    https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB798
  ○ Community Colleges/Textbook Summit (2007)
  ○ Sustainability efforts and funding (2018)

• Florida
  ○ Working group (2009); Title XLVIII, Chapter 1004:
  ○ Florida College System Textbook and Instructional Materials Affordability Report
  ○ University of South Florida TAP: http://tap.usf.edu/
Legislation

- **Passed (2019)**
  - Z-Degree Textbook Program - 3 additional colleges in Minnesota State to develop Z-degree by 2020-2021. ($500,000)

- **Proposed (2019)**
  - HF 2730: Expand OER development and adoption within Minnesota State
  - SF 130: Affordable Textbooks ((15% of courses must be “affordable” - $40 or less
  - SF2214 – Inclusive Access Trial
  - SF 699: Z Degree at each college within Minnesota State

- **Existing**
  - SF 3656 (2018): Requires Minnesota State to develop a plan to increase the use of affordable textbooks
  - HF 2749 (2016): Minnesota State funding for programs on system campuses to promote adoption of open textbooks
  - SF 1236 (2013): Reducing the cost of textbooks through oER as a performance measure for Minnesota State.
Legislation and System Initiatives

Federal:

- Federal Textbook Price Disclosure Law - in effect since 2010
- Affordable College Textbook Act - Proposed April 2019
- Open Textbook Pilot - Funded 2018 and 2019

Minnesota State:

- **Vision for OER**: Minnesota State aspires to be the national leader in open education, ensuring accessible, affordable, and culturally relevant experiences for our students.
- **Z Degrees**: Zero Textbook Cost Degrees - 3 in progress
OER is an EQUITY Strategy

- “High-quality OER can lead to significant financial benefits for students and/or institutions, as well as reduce the potential of financial debt.”
- “A majority of faculty and students perceive OER to be equal to, or better than, commercial textbooks in terms of quality”
- “It was found that students enrolled in courses that have implemented OER as the textbook perform just as well, if not better, in comparison to students enrolled in courses that use traditional commercial textbooks”

Why include and work with the library

- Equitable student support is central ethos of the library
- Access and sharing are core to what libraries do
- We know publishing, information, and associated trends
- Culture of innovation and knowledgeable of technology
- We are neutral and belong to all departments and colleges
- Liaisons work with different departments and can help make connections
OER for all may be an end goal

What alternatives can we grow and promote for immediate and broader impact?

- Course pack replacements - Library-licensed journals; Open Access Journals and Creative Commons materials
- Library-licensed streaming services
- Reserve - electronic and physical
- Unrestricted Interlibrary Loan
- E-books purchased that offer inclusive access
Metropolitan State University

- Course Materials Affordability Task Force - Cross-campus collaboration
- Revision of relevant policies and practices with an equity, inclusion, and access lens
- IFO Library Committee
- OER outreach by librarians
- Creative Commons and copyright expertise
- CFD/COL
Mankato

- Academic Affairs Leadership
  - In collaboration with Library Services and Academic Technology Services
- Previous work
  - OER Cohorts
  - Creative Commons Certification
- OER Interest Group
  - Found new collaborators
- Department Chairs Workshop
  - Textbook Affordability
    - Maverick Textbooks
- Effordability Summit (UW-Stout)
- Textbook Affordability Fair
- Imbedding Tools into D2L
  - Tophat, Knewton, OpenDora
St. Cloud State University

- TAPS-Textbook Affordability Project for Success
  - 4 Principles: Educate, Donate, Create, and Disseminate
  - Textbook/course materials reserve
  - Highest enrolled courses
  - Targeted marketing and email

- University Library Student Advisory group; work with Student Government (SGA) on a textbook drive

- TAC-Textbook Affordability Conference (UMN)

- Subject Guides

- Open Access/OERs workshop series (Spring 2019)
Small Group Discussion

● What are your campus’ plans in this area?
● What roles can your library fulfill in those plans?
● What are some barriers to OER or to working with the library?
● What are some ways to overcome those barriers?
Commitment to action
OER/OA/Textbook Affordability Reso

- California Open Online Library for Education:  [http://www.cool4ed.org/](http://www.cool4ed.org/)
- Openstax (Rice University):  [https://cnx.org/](https://cnx.org/)
- Open Textbook Library (University of Minnesota):  [https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)
- Ebooks Minnesota:  [https://library.biblioboard.com/module/scholarly_resources](https://library.biblioboard.com/module/scholarly_resources)
- UCL Press (University College London):  [https://www.uclpress.co.uk/](https://www.uclpress.co.uk/)
- Bookboon (Denmark):  [https://bookboon.com/](https://bookboon.com/)
- Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources:  [https://www.ccccoer.org/](https://www.ccccoer.org/)
OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2019

¿ABIERTO PARA QUIÉN?
EQUIDAD EN EL CONOCIMIENTO ABIERTO
مَكْت عِبَّش كِيِّسَكَلِيِّ اللِيِّ إِلَيْهِ خِلْلَا؟ خِلْلَةِ جَاَنُ مَيْ إِسْمَانَتَتَا
OPEN FOR WHOM?
EQUITY IN OPEN KNOWLEDGE
حر لمن؟ الإنصاف في المعرفة المفتوحة
OUVERT POUR QUI?
ÉQUITÉ DANS LE SAVOIR OUVERT

OCTOBER 21-27
Thank you!

We look forward to working with more campus partners and seeing the amazing work everyone does to support students with affordable course materials and OER adoption, adaptation, and development.