

APPROACHING & EVALUATING OPEN TEXTBOOKS

BY THE CAUL-CBUA SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

BENEFITS

For Students:

- Financial Savings
- Wider Access
- More Formats

For Faculty:

- Adaptable Content
- Level Playing Field

What are Open Textbooks? Textbooks with an open copyright license, allowing material to be used freely.

What are Open Educational Resources? OERs are any kind of educational resource (including websites, course materials, etc.) that can be freely shared and adapted.

What is Creative Commons (CC)? An alternative set of licenses for creators to use so they can make their work available for use and re-use by others.



On average, new book editions cost 12% more than the previous edition. ²

In 2005, the average time between textbook editions was 3 years. ²



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What is the B.C. Open Textbook Project? In 2012, BCCampus set out to provide open textbooks for the top 40 subjects. They currently have 38/40! ¹

FINDING

A few sites available...

BCcampus #OpenEd

Open Textbook Library

openstax COLLEGE

\$65 million: Spent on textbooks by students affiliated with CAUL per term.

\$500 - \$1000: Avg. cost of post-secondary textbooks per term. ³

EVALUATING

How good of a textbook is it?

- ✓ Consider whether it is : comprehensive, accurate relevant, current, clear?
- ✓ Is the structure, content and grammar appropriate?
- ✓ Would it be easy to adapt for your needs?
- ✓ Are there peer reviews you can consult?
- ✓ Be sure to check the license of the textbook you are considering!

Adapted from source. ⁴

ADOPTING

- ✓ Make it your own! Adapt, add, delete & restructure content.
- ✓ Change the geographic focus.
- ✓ Work with your library to offer students format options.
- ✓ Integrate into your Course Management System.
- ✓ Offer to review other Open Textbooks.

DO YOU HAVE A LIAISON LIBRARIAN WHO CAN HELP YOU SEARCH FOR OPEN TEXTBOOKS?



Sources:

(1) <http://open.bccampus.ca/>

(2) State PIRGs, 2005

(3) Globe & Mail, *Student Living*. Aug. 16, 2011.

(4) <http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/ReviewRubric.aspx>

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