



# Atlantic Open Textbooks Project: Next Steps

October 16, 2015

This document was prepared by the CAUL/CBUA *Scholarly Communications Committee* for the AAU Vice-Presidents Academic, following the Open Textbooks presentation at UPEI in August 2015.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Offer students at Atlantic institutions a viable and sustainable way to lessen the financial burden associated with post-secondary studies;
- Promote and encourage faculty and students to adopt open textbooks in the Atlantic region in all disciplines;
- Provide superior and regionally relevant textbooks to students in Atlantic Canada, free of charge;
- Support faculty in the adoption and creation of open textbooks;
- Encourage collaboration between departments and between academic institutions;
- Intersect with initiatives nationally (e.g. BCCampus) and internationally.

## NEXT STEPS

### **Step 1: CAUL/CBUA Committee**

**Timeline: Fall 2015**

CAUL/CBUA will establish the *Open Textbooks Standing Committee*, which will oversee the Open Textbooks Project. A representative from each participating CAUL/CBUA member institution will serve on this Committee. The Committee will oversee all aspects the Project, although if resources are available a Project Coordinator and additional resources will be hired to take on additional components. CAUL participants will also undertake to develop train the trainer sessions which will intersect with local liaison librarians to facilitate institutional adoption of open textbooks.

### **Step 2: Regional Survey**

**Timeline: January-April 2016**

The *Open Textbooks Standing Committee* will develop and administer an online survey on the current state of open textbooks (adoption, adaptation and creation rates, plans for open textbook development, and general attitudes towards open textbooks) in Atlantic institutions. An online survey will be distributed at each CAUL institution, in collaboration with the CAUL Directors and VPs Academic.

### **Step 3: Promotion of Open Textbook Adoption**

**Timeline: June-August 2016**

The Project Team will develop and distribute promotional materials, develop web resources, promote the adoption of existing open textbooks in the Atlantic region, and develop appropriate related projects based on available resources. Resulting materials will be tailored for specific audiences, such as faculty or students. The Project Team will also develop relationships with potential partners for future steps: student associations, faculty associations, campus bookstores, other committees and associations. A strategy and standard set of metrics for measuring success will be developed during this time.

#### **Step 4: Incentivization of Textbook Creation Adoption**

**Timeline: Varies**

The Project Team, in collaboration with the AAU Vice-Presidents Academic and other partners identified in Step 3, will promote possible strategies to incentivize open textbook production and adoption. Such efforts, which will vary by institution, could include: increased recognition of open textbook authorship towards tenure and promotion, grant opportunities, course release, author/editor stipends, encouraging open textbook creation as sabbatical projects.

#### **Step 5: Atlantic Textbook Adaptation Pilot Project**

**Timeline: 2016-2020**

The Project Coordinator will identify scholars (faculty and/or graduate students) who will collectively adapt an existing open textbook with an Atlantic focus. Possible areas of focus could be sociology, economics or earth sciences. The Project Team, working with scholars, will produce an eBook using an online application such as PressBooks or GitBook. Ideally, the resulting eBooks should be fully accessible for students with disabilities. A print-on-demand print version will also be available to students at minimal cost. The team will produce promotional materials to heighten the profile of this project both regionally and beyond. Support materials will also be produced to guide instructors through the process of adapting the text for their own classes. The resulting electronic versions could be available via a number of different portals, including our own branded platform (see Step 7), Amazon, iTunes, etc. Given sufficient interest and resources more than one text will be adapted/developed.

#### **Step 6: Print-on-Demand Infrastructure Project**

**Timeline: 2017**

There are currently two print-on-demand (POD) Espresso Book Machines (EBM) in use at academic institutions in the Atlantic provinces (UPEI and UNB). This project aims to increase the availability of POD capability in the region by adding at least one EBM machine in a Nova Scotia institution and another at Memorial University in Newfoundland. VPs Academic are encouraged to work administratively within their institutions to offer this service through as many university libraries or bookstores as is feasible. Close collaboration across institutions will be essential to ensure that this EBM network and the associated resources benefit all institutions in the region.

#### **Step 7: Regional Platform for Open Textbooks**

**Timeline: 2017-2019**

The final step will be to develop a branded regional online platform to host electronic open textbooks, facilitate peer reviews and support the creation of open textbooks. This would include the creation of an open textbook repository to deliver finished books and chapters/modules in multiple formats to end users. The repository could deliver print-ready files to bookstores (or EBM provider) as well as downloadable and online versions to students. The repository should also allow for textbook reviews by faculty and facilitate the content harvest for library discovery tools. Development of an open textbook authoring tool could happen concurrently but will have a different set of requirements specific to content creation.

## **BUDGET**

*Note: Funding for the steps described above would ideally come from a combination of in-kind services and cash resources from individual institutions, as well as grants from provincial education departments or funding agencies such as ACOA. The budget below assumes a 2-year project timeline, with a review and recommitment (if appropriate) by the 18-month mark.*

<b>Budget item</b>	<b>Relevant Steps</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Project Coordinator	3-7	\$140,000
Travel	2-7	\$4,000
Printing	3, 5	\$5,000
Stipends for contributors	5	\$40,000
Web hosting	7	In Kind
Espresso (2 EBM units)	6	\$200,000
Staffing for EBMs	6	In Kind
Staff training for EBMs	6	\$2,000
Web designer	7	\$6,000
Database/Repository Developer	7	In Kind
Graphic designer	7	\$3,000
	Total	\$400,000