

ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOK OPTIONS

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE

cqu.edu.au

Overview

The cost of obtaining personal copies of prescribed textbooks presents a significant financial barrier to students over the course of their learning journey. This fact sheet introduces some ways in which you can use a mix of Library and open access content in an eReading List to transition from prescribed textbooks towards more dynamic teaching resources.

Textbooks and CQU Curriculum Refresh

In 2019, 54% of active HE units had a prescribed or supplementary textbook. It has been calculated that the cost to the CQU student body for textbooks (based on enrolment and textbook RRP for all active 2019 HE units) was \$16.2 million. Guided by key objectives in CQU Curriculum Refresh, the University is moving away from textbooks as a primary resource with a view to improving the student experience.

Textbooks can function in several ways, from serving as the principal source of lessons and assessment, to serving as a reference source for technical information. In many instances, these functions can be met via alternative approaches.

Using an eReading list

eReading lists integrate with Moodle and provide a single, consistent and easy point of access for students to engage with unit readings and resources. A wide range of resources can be included in a list, complementing, or in many cases, replacing the prescribed textbook.

Content in an eReading list may include:


- Links to electronic resources held in the Library collections (ebooks, journal articles, videos).
- Freely available material on the web (websites, online documents and reports, videos).
- Digitised readings created from print sources.

eReading lists must be used to provide access to readings and resources in Moodle (including prescribed textbooks). The following resources will help you to get started:

- The [eReading Lists in Moodle course](#) in EMPower.
- Instructional material in the [Using eReading Lists page](#).
- For help on developing an eReading List, please contact the Library via my-librarian@cqu.edu.au

Using Open Textbooks and Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational material that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. OERs range from books to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation. A specific and growing category of OER is Open Textbooks. These online textbooks, written by academics, can be easily integrated into eReading Lists and may include additional resources and features. Key open textbook collections include:

- 
- [OpenStax](#)
Peer-reviewed titles by OpenStax, part of Rice University. Some titles include additional resources for academics and students. Content can be highlighted and notated.
 - [Open Textbook Library](#)
Titles from a wide range of publishers, including key open textbook publishers. Not all titles are peer-reviewed during the publication process (the site includes, and encourages, post-publication peer reviews). Includes some Australian titles.
 - [B.C. Open Textbook Collection](#)
Open textbooks created or adapted by faculty across British Columbia.
 - [Open SUNY Textbooks](#)
Peer-reviewed open textbooks from State University of New York faculty and staff.

For more information about how to find Open Access resources, see the Library's [Open Access and Creative Commons page](#).

Need more information?
Contact the Library:
[Submit an online request](#)
Phone: 1300 666 620
Email: my-librarian@cqu.edu.au