

OPEN TEXTBOOKS

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Overview

This fact sheet identifies key open textbook collections and where to find both open textbooks and open access scholarly books.

What are open textbooks?

Open textbooks are free, online textbooks created under an open copyright licence. They are usually written by academics, peer-reviewed, can be downloaded, and may include additional resources and features. They offer an affordable, flexible alternative to traditionally-published textbooks.

Why use open textbooks?

- Open textbooks support the CQURenew Curriculum Refresh criterion to minimise textbook costs for students;
- Open textbooks can be easily integrated into eReading Lists and Moodle in the same manner as commercial textbooks; and
- Content can often be modified to suit different contexts.

Key open textbook collections:

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. If you decide to adopt a textbook from this collection there is a simple free online notification requirement. To access instructor-only materials, you will be required to create a free OpenStax account.

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. If you decide to adopt a textbook from this collection, no notification or registration is required.

B.C. Open Textbook Collection

Open textbooks created or adapted by faculty across British Columbia, Canada.

Open SUNY Textbooks

Peer-reviewed open textbooks from State University of New York faculty and staff.



Open Education Resources (OER):

Open Education Resources contain content that has been developed for educational use. Open textbooks are a key part of OER. Some OER sites enable you to search specifically for textbooks:

- [OER Commons](#)
- [OASIS](#)
- [Mason OER Metafinder](#) (Apply the 'book' limit to the list of search results).

Textbook alternatives

Open Access book collections with scholarly content may provide other titles which could be used instead of a textbook. The Library's [Database Search](#) includes some of these collections, including [DOAB](#) (Directory of Open Access Books) as well as publisher and university press collections.

Need more information?

Contact the Library:

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Phone: 1300 666 620

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