



Open Textbooks

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 Open Educational Resources (OER). They are free and most often digital textbooks created under an open licence that can be freely used, shared and often adapted. 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

CQU Library's Open Education Resources Collection

This is a new and growing collection of high-quality open textbooks curated by CQU Librarians and arranged by study area. Watch this space for the addition of new sub-collections.

CAUL OER Collective Catalogue

A collection of open textbooks written by academics from Australian and New Zealand universities and facilitated by the Council of Australasian University Librarians.

Pressbooks Directory

A global collection of over 8,000 open books published via the pressbooks platform.

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.

OER COLLECTIONS

Open Educational 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](#)
- [MERLOT](#)
- [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.