

Considerations for Textbook Adoptions

- A thriving campus bookstore brings down the cost of the books overall, ensures availability, and provides better return and exchange policies for our students.
- Many DAC students are low-income and not all have access to credit cards for online purchases.
- Not all students have access to e-readers and technology at home for online and e-reader platforms.
- Requiring students to turn in pages directly from a text renders it unusable and unsellable for the future. Allowing students to hand-in photocopies for assignments allows for resell and creates a resale market for future students.
- Online codes in conjunction with textbooks are very costly for our students. Other options should be weighed prior to requiring purchases of texts which also require an access code. The texts often can't be sold back once the code has been used.
 - Before adopting texts with code-related online components, take the time to find out how long the codes can be used. One-quarter/term codes don't take into account students who, for a multitude of reasons, need to drop the class and re-take the course later.
 - Find out how much the code costs as a stand-alone purchase. Some codes are just as expensive as the text.
- Keep in mind our lowest income students when adopting texts. Refer to the BOGFW Type B:

<i>Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program BOGFW-B 2014-2015 Income Standards</i>	
Family	2013 Income
1	\$17,235
2	\$23,265
3	\$29,295
4	\$35,325
5	\$41,355
6	\$47,385
7	\$53,415

Consider this:

A book that costs \$150 is 11% of a single student's monthly income (\$1,436.25)...and that is only one book.

Imagine spending 11% of your monthly income on one book.

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New book price – Publishers often deflect questions of cost by offering ways to “reduce the cost” which actually make the item less able to be resold – fragile formats, custom editions – and as a result don't actually decrease the overall cost to the students.

- Find out from the publisher how much the new version of a text will actually cost the student.

Resale market (Used prices typically range from 25% - 75% of new price)

- Timing of Adoption - early adoptions at the bookstore results in a greater quantity of used items and better used book prices, whereas late adoption can mean only new books can be acquired on-campus
- Format - if an item is fragile, it might not survive to resale, which means more students have to buy new at full price. Items tend to be more fragile if they are spiral bound, three hole punch or perforated
- Competing editions – each custom or variant edition is only useful to a fraction of the students using the title, thus reducing the possibility of resale and of getting a used book of the right version
- Length of usefulness - if new editions are being adopted every year, a specific edition is useful only in a tiny window in time, necessitating the purchase of new copies for a larger percentage of students
- Access codes and eBooks – can't be resold

Open Educational Resources

There is an ever-increasing number and variety of free, peer-reviewed, online resources. These resources are under Creative Commons or similar licensing and as a result can be used for free. Also, for students who need a print copy due to lack of access to the internet, hardcopies are available at cost of printing.

Sources of OER:

<http://openstaxcollege.org/books>

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page

Links to additional resources and information about OER:

<http://www.deanza.edu/communityengagement/oer/>

<http://www.edutopia.org/open-educational-resources-guide>

<http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/>

<http://oerconsortium.org/>

<http://uiuc.libguides.com/oer>

Not OER, but honorable mention for low prices:

<http://www1.flatworldknowledge.com/>

<http://www.boundless.com>