**Where to find open textbooks**

**BCcampus –**[**https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/**](https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/)

A repository of open textbooks peer reviewed and adapted by faculty in British Columbia, Canada.

**College Open Textbooks –** [**http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/**](http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/)

Open textbooks with peer reviews developed for community college consortia.

**MERLOT – <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>**

A repository of free and open online teaching materials with peer reviews.

**MOM: Mason OER Metafinder – https://mason.deepwebaccess.com/mason\_\_MasonLibrariesOpenEducationResources\_5f4/desktop/en/search.html**

Metasearch engine searches targets in real-time, instantly returning the top several hundred or so most relevant hits from each site.

**OASIS** –[**https://oasis.geneseo.edu/**](https://oasis.geneseo.edu/)

Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (OASIS) is a search tool that aims to make the discovery of open content easier.

**OER Commons –** [**https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/open-textbooks**](https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/open-textbooks)

Free, adaptable, openly licensed textbooks and supplemental resources.

OpenStaxCollege – [**https://openstax.org/**](https://openstax.org/)

Open textbook publisher of high-quality print and mobile platform texts for general education courses.

Open SUNY Textbooks **–** [**https://textbooks.opensuny.org/**](https://textbooks.opensuny.org/)

State University of New York’s open textbook publishing initiative repository.

**Open Textbook Library –** [**https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/**](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)

Listing of high quality open textbooks and faculty peer reviews at University of Minnesota.

**Saylor Foundation –** [**https://www.saylor.org/books/**](https://www.saylor.org/books/)

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**What Is an Open Textbook?**

**What makes a textbook open?**

A textbook becomes "open" when its copyright holder grants usage rights to the public through an open license, which typically includes the right to access, reformat, and customize it at no additional cost.

**What do open textbooks look like?**

Hard copies of open textbooks look much like traditional texts. The primary differences are that open textbooks are also accessible online at no cost and the hard copies are optional and affordably priced.

**How many open textbooks are there?**

Thousands of open textbooks already exist and more are on the way.

**Who pays open textbook authors?**

Open publishing models are still evolving, so author payment varies. Some are paid royalties on print sales, some receive grant support, and others choose to write on their own time.

**Are open textbooks high quality?**

Many open textbooks are developed through traditional peer review; others are vetted by experts. As with any textbook, you are the final judge of whether an open textbook meets the needs of your course.

**What Do Open Textbooks Look Like?**

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Open textbooks are available in both digital and print formats:

• Online

• Downloadable PDF/ePub

• Print-on-demand

Many open textbooks contain a variety of supplemental materials (e.g., test banks, quizzes, and/or PowerPoints).

*Examples of open textbooks:*



**CARLI’s Open Illinois Initiative**

The CARLI Open Illinois Initiative is a commitment to facilitate members’ use and support of Open Educational Resources, especially training, advocacy, and coordination   
of cooperative effort for the benefit of   
CARLI libraries.

<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/open-ed-resource-overview>

**How Do I Adopt an Open Textbook?**

**Find the right textbook**

Searchthe repositories listed in this pamphlet. Use advanced search options to narrow results. Ask a librarian for help in identifying OER textbooks or other low or no cost resources.

**Review and evaluate**

Decide if the book matches your needs for **content, presentation, online accessibility**, p**roduction options, platform compatibility, delivery options, interactivity, consistency between online and printed versions, and available ancillary material.**

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One of the benefits of **open textbooks** is flexibility to modify and customize them for specific course designs as much or as little as you desire. If you want to make edits or append content, make sure the licensing allows that. Different repositories will have different options for editing and publishing revised copies.

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Select the best format to distribute to your class (online, downloadable PDF, ePub, print-on-demand) via either your campus bookstore or from the online repository.