

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

All that you need to know about OER, ZTC, Inclusive Access, and other ways to provide excellent resources for our courses--that don't cost an arm and a leg!



IN THIS EDITION...

NEWS FROM ASCCC- 1

FOCUS TOPIC: HOW MUCH MONEY CAN WE REALLY SAVE, DOLLARS- WISE?- 2

OTHER OER NEWS - 3

LASTEST OER PUBLICATIONS - 3

IDEA OF THE MONTH: EMBEDDING OER INTO YOUR CANVAS COURSE - 4

CONTACT US! - 6

NEWS FROM ASCCC

- ASCCC OERI [Canvas Site](#)
 - Their [general website](#) has information on their Webinars, which are every Friday, 3-4pm.
- 2020 ASCCC Fall Plenary: There were 2 resolutions passed that addressed textbook costs.
 - [Fall 2020, 09.01: Recommendations for the Implementation of a Zero Textbook Cost \(ZTC\) Designation in Course Schedules](#), which extends the work already being done with SB 1359 by assuring that our class schedules are properly marked;
 - [Fall 2020, 20.02: Ensure Course Cost Transparency for Students](#), which encourages ASCCC and local senates to ensure that there is clear and transparent information about all costs associated with a course, including textbooks.
- Cañada and SMCCCD already follow the first resolution, and we are working to make the cost icons and other labeling of course material costs in WebSchedule more transparent. The updates should be ready for Summer 2021 registration.

NEXT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE:

**26 January, 11am-12noon, via
Zoom**

(email harmonsesmccd.edu for the address)

Focus Topic: How much money can we really save, dollars-wise?

There have been a number of reports in the last few months that highlight just how much switching to OER has saved students. Our sister college, Skyline, has shown that as entire programs and many faculty have switched to using OER materials, students have saved \$3.8 million dollars over 3 years! (Check out their [ZTC site](#) for more information.)

- Programs that work--news from just the last 2 months:
 - [Texas A&M's program](#) has saved students \$1.5 million since 2017;
 - Rutgers University has also published how its Open Affordable Textbook program has helped students save \$4.5 million since 2017
- ISKME has produced a [faculty quick start guide for OER and online learning](#) that is specifically geared for California community colleges. This excellent resource is a way to get started in OER.



Did you know...?

The new Board of Trustee member, representing Area 1, is [Lisa A. Petrides](#). Why is that of interest? She is the founder and CEO of OER Commons, and from there went on to found and become the CEO of ISKME. She is an OER pioneer and avid supporter. We are happy to see her join our Board of Trustees, and hope that we can work with her in the future!



Other OER News

- The Creative Commons [Open Education Platform](#) is hosting a series of open education "lightning talks" (7 min + 2 min Q&A) and you are all invited! The goals of this series are to provide a safe space for anyone to present their open education work, get feedback from their colleagues, and for all of us to learn what each other are doing to improve education. Good news! The first 24 x Open Education Lightning Talks are scheduled. Details: [Blog](#)./ [Tweet](#) . Talks will be recorded.
- Looking for open-source images for your slides, posters, and other publications? Open Oregon is creating a [FAQ list](#) of them. Check it out for anything that you need!
- The first Open Textbook Pilot Grant Program has closed for applications, and there seems to be a push to get another round of funding going. Help us get the message out! Check out [SPARC's update page](#) for more information and ways that you can help.
- The [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) is announcing that they are using their [Open Education Strategy](#) to help educators with programs and materials that promote anti-racist mindsets, including supporting more OER projects.



Latest OER Publications

Check out our [growing spreadsheet of OER titles](#) that are available--updated weekly!

Some of the latest titles that have come out since the beginning of November:

- Philosophy: [Introduction to Logic](#) by Assadian, Bahram et.al., via Rebus Community
- Business Math: [Business Math I](#) by Abdulkadir, Ayman et.al., via Open Library
- Geography: [The Western World: Daily Readings on Geography](#) by Quam and Campbell (College of DuPage), via PressBooks

You can also check out the [ASCCC OER Initiative's list of databases](#), which includes links to OpenStax, LibreText, MERLOT, and so many more. Their [discipline-specific list](#) (on the CCC Canvas page) has multiple resources for many disciplines, along with C-ID connected courses.



IDEA OF THE MONTH

Embedding OER into your Canvas course

Given that our sudden shift to online modality has required most all of us to rethink every aspect of our courses, one of the common topics that comes up frequently is our course materials. It would be hard to argue that the cost of materials--textbooks, homework platforms, lab kits, art supplies, and anything else our students need to succeed in our courses--is a cost that is easy to afford; too many studies in the last several years have shown the contrary data, including many studies that have been highlighted in this newsletter series.

What can we faculty do about this?

In a recent [EdSurge article](#) about the various aspects of higher education that could change post-pandemic, one of the topics that came up was the importance of transparency--in this case, transparency surrounding our course materials and how they integrate with our Learning Module System (in our case, Canvas). Indeed, with even our recent PRIE studies about [our students and their experiences with online education](#) in the last several months, we know that the more an instructor integrates their materials into the Canvas experience, the more comfortable the student is in finding what they need to do and how to do it.

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IDEA OF THE MONTH, Continued

So let's find ways to have good course materials, and integrate them into our Canvas shells.

- **Connections within the course:** Many materials that are hosted on sites like LibreTexts and OER Commons can be directly imported into your Canvas course shell. This allows you to specify which content needs to be read/done by students within a module, or even to customize which parts of the materials that you wish to use. In this way, students only have to go to your Canvas course shell to gain access to the materials.
- **Canvas Quiz--check the concept:** If you have used Blackboard or Moodle (our old WebAccess), you perhaps used 'Lessons' to create or curate content with an incorporated quiz function. In this way, we could ask our students to check their knowledge in a low-stakes environment. We can do the same thing with Canvas Quizzes; once you have imported your OER material into your course shell, you can adopt or create a quick comprehension quiz to be taken immediately after the material.
- **PDF versions and Print-On-Demand:** Did you know that in many cases, the OER textbooks and quick guides that are published by the main repositories can be printed on demand? This is done through our Bookstore. In other cases, there may be a PDF version of the material that you can easily place on your Canvas course shell.

In upcoming QOTL training modules, we will focus on how to integrate OER into your course shells, as well as some best practices and suggestions. Look for this in the coming months!

LibreText head Delmar Larson hosts open office hours every week; they frequently offer workshops on how to integrate their materials into Canvas and other platforms. You can go to their [Harvest Request link](#) to sign up for more information, or you can even check out their [YouTube channel](#) for more tutorials.

One more thought about incorporating elements into Canvas: Make sure you use an accessibility tool to check that your content is fully readable and accessible to all who see it. You can use the Accessibility Tool ('The Little Man' icon in the toolbar) to check that a table or your colors are fine. Another tool is [WAVE](#), which is an add-on/extension of Chrome and Firefox. It's really easy to load, and can quickly check your content. If you'd like more information, check with Sarah Harmon or Nick DeMello, or at the [Local POCR Resource Center](#), at the bottom of the Reviewer tab.



CONTACT US!

Textbook Affordability Taskforce LibGuide-- part of the overall OER/ZTC Resources LibGuide, which is great for students.

- OER/ZTC Resources LibGuide: <http://guides.canadacollege.edu/OER>
- TAT LibGuide: <http://guides.canadacollege.edu/OER/info>

Textbook Affordability Consultation form-- let Sarah Harmon, Diana Tedone, and Cynthia McCarthy help you find resources for your courses! Consultation Form: <https://tinyurl.com/CAN-TATConsultation>

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Frustrations?
Let Sarah know! (harmonsm@smccd.edu)



Thanks for reading!



The Textbook Affordability Subcommittee are:

- Nick DeMello, Online Education Coordinator; Chemistry Faculty
- Valeria Estrada, Librarian
- Sarah Harmon, OER Coordinator/AS OER Liaison; Spanish and Linguistics Faculty
- Allison Hughes, Instructional Technologist
- Ramki Kalyanaraman, Engineering Faculty
- Jai Kumar, Bookstore Manager
- David Reed, Dean of Academic Services and Learning Technologies
- Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Librarian