

TABS

Textbook Affordability at Ball State

College of Communication, Information, and Media Textbook Affordability Toolkit & Resources

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BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

TABS

Textbook Affordability at Ball State

Working toward a more accessible, affordable, and equitable student experience.

At Ball State we define textbook affordability as \$40 or less per course. Affordability can be achieved through use of Open Educational Resources, low-cost textbook alternatives, or use of library services and resources.

TABS is part of the affordable education movement across the country, an important effort to reduce costs and remove barriers for student access to course learning materials.

Why Pursue Textbook Affordability?

While college expenses are rising, course materials are one cost that **faculty can directly affect** with a **significant impact on student success**.

- Ensure students are prepared to learn on day one with equitable access to materials.
- Incorporate up-to-date materials from diverse voices within your discipline.
- Integrate materials with Ball State systems, including Poll Everywhere and Canvas.
- Make your course more sustainable by not relying on single-use physical resources.

Support for TABS

Contact the TABS Working Group and TABS Faculty Fellows at tabs@bsu.edu for support with implementing textbook affordability measures. They can help by:

- Connecting units with library specialists who can help research OERs and Open Textbooks
- Presenting an overview of the TABS initiative at faculty meetings
- Hosting small-group workshops introducing faculty to available resources in their area
- Meeting with instructors for individual support and area-specific consultation

Making Your Course More Affordable

1

Find free or low cost copies of your current course resources

Work with college and discipline-specific librarians who can recommend resources and offer guidance on applicable copyright laws and restrictions.

2

Research alternative resources and substitutions

Where free or low cost versions are not available, research Open Educational Resources (OER) to use instead. With some searching you can find high-quality materials that suit your classes. Some resources, including OER databases, online textbooks, and pre-built course modules are compiled in this guide.

3

Develop your own personalized resources for your classes

Once you know exactly what you are looking for or you have identified gaps in the available low cost and open educational resources, you can develop your own written or visual resources for your classes to use on Canvas or OneDrive.

Getting Started

[An Introduction to Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#)

[Advice for Faculty Getting Started with OER](#)

[The OER Starter Kit for Program Managers](#)

[OER Training Guide](#)

[OER Training Modules](#)

[MI ExpIOER - Self-Paced Course on OER](#)

General Resources

Ball State LibGuides

- [Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Overview](#)
- [Finding Public Domain and Openly Licensed Media](#)
- [Reading Lists and Course Reserves](#)
- [Copyright in Course Reserves](#)
- [Copyright in the Classroom](#)

Edutopia - Open Educational Resources Roundup

OER Search Engine - Mason OER Metafinder

Toolkit for Developing Open Access Content

OER Creation Toolkit

Diverse Multimedia OER (stock photos, sounds, slides, videos)

Expanding OER Use

OER Promotional Kit

Teaching in Higher Ed Podcast - Open Education Category

How one professor made her own OER textbook (Podcast)

More Professors Aware of, and Using, OER (Article)

Open Faculty Patchbook - OER Projects and Discussion

CICS Resources

Library Guides

- [Skyline College - Network Engineering](#)
- [Skyline College - Computer Science](#)
- [Le Moyne College - Cybersecurity and Computer Science](#)
- [South Texas College - Cybersecurity](#)
- [Western Technical College - Cybersecurity and Networks](#)
- [Western Technical College - IT Computer Support](#)
- [COM Library - Cybersecurity](#)
- [Iowa State University - Computer & Information Technology](#)
- [Mount Saint Vincent University - Information Technology](#)
- [Messiah University - Computer and Information Science](#)

Merlot

- [Textbooks](#)
- [Course Materials](#)

BC Open Collection

- [Computer Science Textbooks](#)
- [Information Technology Textbooks](#)

Open Textbook Library

- [Computer Science Textbooks](#)
- [Information Systems Textbooks](#)

OER Commons

- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Information Technology](#)

Galileo

- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Information Technology](#)

MIT OpenCourseWare

- [Computer Science](#)
- [Information Technology](#)

OASIS

- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Information Technology](#)

[Saylor Academy](#)

[Green Tea Press](#)

[InTechOpen](#)

[BookBoon](#)

[Open Culture](#)

Communication Studies Resources

Library Guides

- [Skyline College - Communication Studies](#)
- [Merrimack College - Communication & Media](#)
- [University of Massachusetts Amherst - Communication](#)
- [Iowa State University - Communication Studies](#)
- [Mount Saint Vincent University - Communication Studies](#)
- [Sacred Heart University - Communication Studies](#)
- [University of Southern Maine - Communication & Media](#)
- [Hillsborough Community College - Speech and Communication](#)
- [Chesapeake College - Communications](#)

[Mason OER Metafinder](#)

OER Commons

- [Course Materials - Communication](#)
- [Course Materials - Communication Studies](#)

Open Textbook Library

- [Introduction to Communication Studies](#)
- [Journalism, Media Studies, and Communications Textbooks](#)
- [Intercultural Communication](#)

OASIS

- [Communication Studies](#)
- [Public Speaking](#)

[Galileo - Communication Textbooks](#)

[OER Initiative](#)

[Merlot](#)

COURSES

[Saylor Academy - Principles of Human Communication](#)

[Open Course Library - Public Speaking](#)

[MIT OpenCourseWare - Communication](#)

Media Resources

Library Guides

- [Sacred Heart University - Media Arts](#)
- [Sacred Heart University - Film & Television](#)
- [Skyline College - Film](#)
- [Merrimack College - Communication & Media](#)
- [Loyalist College - Media Studies](#)
- [Los Angeles Valley College - Cinema](#)
- [Los Angeles Valley College - Broadcasting](#)
- [Wayne State University - Film & Media Studies](#)
- [Douglas College - Film Studies](#)
- [California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt](#)
- [Tacoma Community College - Film Studies](#)
- [Austin Community College - Radio, Television, Film](#)

[Mason OER Metafinder](#)

OER Commons

- [Communication, Film and Music Production](#)
- [Mass Media](#)

Open Textbook Library

- [Media Studies](#)
- [Film Studies](#)
- [Writing for Electronic Media](#)

[Critical Commons](#)

[Media History Project](#)

[Lantern](#)

COURSES

[MIT OpenCourseWare - Introduction to Media Studies](#)

[Checkology - News Literacy Courses](#)

Journalism and Strategic Communications Resources

Library Guides

- [Los Angeles Valley College - Journalism](#)
- [Drake University - Journalism & Media Studies](#)
- [Austin Community College - Journalism](#)
- [Southern Connecticut State University - Journalism](#)
- [University of Missouri - Journalism and Communication](#)
- [Skyline College - Journalism](#)
- [University of Southern Maine - Communication & Media Studies](#)

[Mason OER Metafinder](#)

Open Textbook Library

- [Journalism, Media Studies, and Communications](#)
- [New Media Journalism](#)

OER Commons

- [Journalism](#)
- [Journalism & Public Relations](#)

OAPEN

- [Journalism](#)
- [Journalism & Media Studies](#)

Merlot

- [Journalism](#)
- [Strategic Communication](#)

[OASIS](#)

[Bloomsbury Collections](#)

COURSES

[EdX - Journalism Courses](#)

[Checkology - Journalism Courses](#)