

# Open Educational Resources

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FREE, OR ONE BIG FREE-FOR-ALL?

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# What are Open Ed. Resources?

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“teaching and learning materials that you may freely **use** and **reuse** at no cost”

[www.oercommons.org](http://www.oercommons.org)

[College Textbook Prices Have Risen 1,041 Percent Since 1977](#), *NBC*, 8/6/15

[Students Are Still Saddled With Soaring Textbook Costs, Report Says](#), *NBC*, 2/10/16

[The Soaring Cost Of Textbooks](#), *Good*, 4/26/16

[Bringing down the high cost of textbooks](#), *Washington Post*, 6/26/16

[Average Annual Cost of Textbooks at \\$602](#), *Campus Technology*, 7/21/16

[As textbook prices soar, students find cheaper alternatives](#), *News & Observer*, 8/26/16

[A Brief History of the College Textbook Pricing Racket](#), *Atlas Obscura*, 8/29/16

[The Demise of the Textbook Mafia](#), *Boston Magazine*, 9/01/16

[A New Cost at College: Digital Access Codes](#), *New York Times*, 9/23/16

[The crazy price of college textbooks is pushing more US universities to adopt an “open-source” solution](#), *Quartz*, 9/27/16

[As textbook prices soar, UNCG looks for free alternatives](#), *News & Record*, 9/28/16

[Textbooks: Prices are rising, but students aren’t paying](#), *The Lantern*, 10/31/16

[Students: Dodging high textbook costs becoming art form](#), *eCampus News*, 12/13/16

[University of Arkansas faculty nudged to put texts on Web](#), *Arkansas Online*, 1/8/17

► **tl:dr – Not good. Getting worse.**

# Just the facts, please

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## ▶ Pricing (1977-2015)

- Textbooks: rose **1,041%**
- Consumer price index: **308%**

## ▶ Control

- Five companies control **80%** of market

# The cost of costly textbooks

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- ▶ Students aren't using the textbooks
- ▶ 65% have opted out of purchasing 1+
- ▶ 94% say they suffered academically
- ▶ 82% said that OER would help

# OER, Louisiana, and NSU

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- ▶ State legislators, the ULS, and the BOR are increasingly interested in OER as tool for cost savings in higher education.
- ▶ <http://openlouisiana.org/>

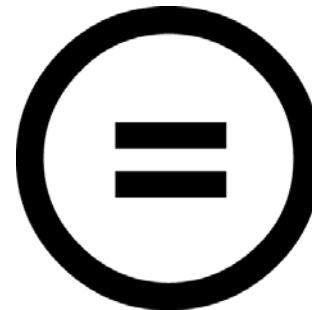
# What does “open” mean?

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- ▶ Free to access.
- ▶ Free to download.
- ▶ **Free to reuse.**

# How do you know it is “open”?




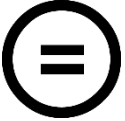

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# Creative Commons License

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- ▶ Does the author need credit?  
- ▶ Can you use this material commercially? 
- ▶ Can you modify this material? 
- ▶ Can you copyright this material? 

# Which CCL is most “open”?

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## CC-BY (Attribution)



“This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. **This is the most accommodating of licenses offered.** Recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials.”

# Where can I find . . .

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## ▶ **OER Videos**

- Khan Academy (Math, Science, Arts)
- Crash Course (History, Science, Econ)

## ▶ **OER Images**

- Wikipedia / Wikimedia Commons

# What about OER textbooks?

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- ▶ COTC [www.collegeopentextbooks.org](http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org)
- ▶ Saylor Foundation [www.saylor.org/books](http://www.saylor.org/books)
- ▶ MERLOT [www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm](http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm)
- ▶ OER Commons [www.oercommons.org](http://www.oercommons.org)

# Open Textbook Network

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- ▶ University of Minnesota
- ▶ Premier OER textbook library
- ▶ LA Board of Regents affiliation
- ▶ [open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)

# Open Textbook Library

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**Accounting & Finance**

**Business, Management,  
& Marketing**

**Computer Science &  
Information Systems**

**Economics**

**Engineering**

**Foreign Languages**

**General Education**

**Humanities & Language**

**Law**

**Mathematics & Statistics**

**Natural & Physical  
Sciences**

**Social Sciences**

# What is the **gold** standard?

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## ▶ **OpenStax College Textbooks**

- [www.openstax.org](http://www.openstax.org)
- Project of Rice University
- 32 free, peer-reviewed, CC-BY textbooks



**RICE**

**BILL & MELINDA**  
**GATES** *foundation*

# OpenStax College Textbooks

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# What should I keep in mind?

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- ▶ How will I properly attribute this work?
- ▶ Are these files too large for easy download & use?
- ▶ Can I divide a textbook PDF into smaller parts?
- ▶ Are there useful chapters in textbooks from *other* disciplines?
- ▶ Can I archive this material permanently?
- ▶ How do I create test banks and supplements?