

UNI Textbook Equity Initiative: *Accomplishments to Date*

\$1.5 Million Saved

BY UNI STUDENTS SINCE
TRACKING BEGAN IN 2016

Created a program to publish UNI-authored free textbooks. From 2022 through 2024, Rod Library will publish 10 free, openly-licensed textbooks, saving UNI students more than \$300,000 per year once implemented.

Partnership and Collaboration



Started UNI Textbook Equity Student Advisory Board and partnered with Northern Iowa Student Government to engage students in textbook equity advocacy.

Partnered with UNI Registrar's Office and UNI Bookstore to increase transparency and data collection about versions of course materials that are free to students.



Provide statewide leadership through participation on Iowa OER Action Team.

Recognized nearly 50 Textbook Equity Champions, UNI faculty who have demonstrated commitment to course materials access by transitioning courses to Open Educational Resources (OER), saving UNI students about \$300,000 per year.



Awarded \$204,519

External grant with UI & ISU, resulting in Regents OER Grant Program.

+

Provost's Office one-time funding.



Participated in 2021-22 AAC&U Institute on OER to create a campus Action Plan for textbook equity.



Created Course Materials Affordability Review service, an opt-in program for faculty to receive a customized list of free/affordable materials matching a course.



Created 2022-23 UNI Textbook Equity Mini-Grant Program for faculty to transition courses to existing OER or create their own.

COMPARING OER TO ALTERNATIVE MODELS

The table below provides an overview of the most popular alternative approaches to lowering textbook costs and how they do and do not achieve OER's student-centered benefits.*

	IS THE RESOURCE ...					
	Public domain or openly licensed?	Available when a course starts?	Available in perpetuity?	At least one form is free of cost to students?	Free from personal data sharing?	Modifiable by user?
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)	Always	Always	Always	Always	Always	Always
PRINTED COMMERCIAL MATERIAL RENTAL	Never	Sometimes	Never	Never	Sometimes	Never
LIBRARY RESOURCES	Rarely	Sometimes	Never	Always	Rarely	Never
LOW-COST PRINT OPTIONS OR COMPLIMENTARY RESOURCES OF OER	Always	Sometimes	Always	Never	Often	Sometimes
USED BOOKS OR OTHER ALL RIGHTS RESERVED MATERIALS WITH LOWER COSTS	Never	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Often	Never
INCLUSIVE ACCESS	Rarely	Often	Never	Never	Never	Never
EQUITABLE ACCESS	Rarely	Often	Never	Never	Never	Never

*The answers in this table are generalized; they may be different in different contexts.

Modified from: ["Toward Convergence: Creating Clarity to Drive More Consistency in Understanding the Benefits and Costs of OER"](#) by Zaback, K., [Midwest Higher Education Compact](#), licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#)