Re-imagining Course Readings

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Where we are . .

- Hy-Flex
- Migration to Canvas LMS
- Online pedagogy challenges
Library Options for Course Readings

Course Reserves
Open Educational Resources
Context: Academic Publishing

- Skyrocketing textbook prices
- “Affordability” initiatives (e.g. “renting” textbooks) that restrict student ownership and retention of material
- Inflating costs with digital access codes, manuals, etc.

A textbook case of price-gouging

% increase

Textbook prices

Consumer prices

Source: Bureau of Labour Statistics
COVID-19 Response

Many publishers offered “temporary open access” to electronic resources.

Most of these offers ended in May.

Electronic resources are sometimes more expensive & bundled with unwanted access code content.
Licensing and Restrictions

Most for-profit publishers still only offer single-user licenses for eBooks.

Furthermore, publishers **constantly fight** libraries using electronic reserves over Fair Use.
Other entities

Companies like TopHat enter the scene, promising low-cost alternatives to pricey textbooks. Access to this material is only provided through the proprietary platform, eliminating other routes for students to get content (e.g. e-reserves).
Libraries are opening paths for students to access content

We have a number of resources and avenues to help your students with being able to access the learning materials they need.

- Online databases
- Subscription services
- Open Education
Course Reserves @ Pitt Libraries

- Library licensed content
  - eBooks
  - Articles online
  - Streaming media
Reserves are online for Fall 2020

• Electronic Course Reserves are made available from the Libraries
  • Request form: library.pitt.edu/course-reserves
  • Content from library collections or personal copies are scanned, uploaded
  • A password-protected link is provided to the instructor to share with students
Lifecycle of a Course Reserve Request

Request >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Identify, Review >>>>>>>>>>>>

Revise
How much of a book will the library scan for course reserves?

When the ULS receives scanning requests for book chapters or articles, we consider the U.S. Copyright Law’s “Four Factors” to determine if the request would fall within the boundaries of Fair Use.
Guiding Questions for Scanning

• Chapters/Sections from Books
  • How long is the excerpt?
  • Would this use complement or compete with sales of the original?
  • Is the amount any more than is necessary to achieve the pedagogical purpose?
Four Factors

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
2. The nature of the copyrighted work (e.g., whether it is factual or creative in nature)
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work
Flip the Script

Rethink
Revise
Re-envision
Identifying Library Materials

• Permalinks in PittCat
  • Visit library.pitt.edu
  • Sign-in
  • Choose “Available online”
  • Capture the “Permalink” for the item
OER: Open Educational Resources
Consider . .

- Over the past decade, textbook prices have increased 88%.
- 66% of students surveyed report they skipped buying or renting an assigned book because of cost.
- 48% of students surveyed say the cost of course materials impacts which classes and how many classes they can take.
- One in five students skip buying access codes necessary to complete assignments.
- 11% of surveyed students report skipping meals due to materials costs.

1 - Open Textbook Alliance. [https://opentextbookalliance.org/out-of-control-prices/](https://opentextbookalliance.org/out-of-control-prices/)
Open Educational Resources (OER)

“Teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restriction.”

OER Benefits

For Students:
• No cost online version (or very low-cost print)
• Available immediately at start of class
• Can be saved (versus expiring textbook rentals)

For Instructors:
• Adaptable content – no copyright issues, able to be modified, revised and updated
• Redesign instruction for more active learning
General Chemistry fall 2019:

Switched from traditional text of $250 to OpenStax OER text = $0

32 labs @ 24 seats = 768 students

768 x $250.00 = $192,000 Savings
Some Scenarios

Less work for Instructor

- Entire OER course ready to go (rare)
- Textbook for a course
- Assorted OER materials incorporated into course

More work for Instructor

- Creating an OER for a course (rare)
5 R’s of OER:

**Retain** - the right to make, own, and control copies of the content (e.g., download, duplicate, store, and manage)

**Reuse** - the right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)

**Revise** - the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)

**Remix** - the right to combine the original or revised content with other material to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)

**Redistribute** - the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)
How do I know if something is OER?

• Find it in an OER Repository
• Look for a [Creative Commons License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/)
How do I start with OER?

Contact:

Your Liaison Librarian
ULS OER Team at ULS-OER@pitt.edu

Office of Scholarly Communication & Publishing oscp@mail.pitt.edu
Need more help?

- Course Reserves ULS-CourseReserveServices@pitt.edu
- ULS OER Team at ULS-OER@pitt.edu
- For any other questions, Ask Us!