WHY DO WE NEED OER?

US undergraduate students spend approximately $1200 a year on textbooks.

Textbook cost has risen at four times the rate of inflation in the last 10 years.

30% of students need to use federal student aid to pay for textbooks.

This adds up to over $3 billion of student aid used for books alone.

This unexpected cost hurts marginalized students disproportionately.

OER texts are used in only 20% of classes in degree-granting institutions.

BENEFITS OF OER

Students can save, on average, $128 on each class that uses OER.

Students give instructors positive evaluations for kindness, compassion, and thinking outside of the box.

Retention can improve when using OER, with professors noting fewer drops in the first 2 to 3 weeks.

Professors have improved attendance with OER texts that emphasize subject relevance to students’ lives.

Studies show increased student success, due to universal access to a copy of the text.

Great recruiting tool by demonstrating commitment to emerging technologies.

OER EXAMPLES:

OER Commons
https://www.oercommons.org/

Open Textbook Library
http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/

Open SUNY Textbooks
https://textbooks.opensuny.org/

MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching)
https://www.merlot.org/

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Library support: Paula Martin phmartin@mckendree.edu (618) 537-6952
Copyright concerns: Jen Funk jafunk@mckendree.edu (618) 537-6515
Advice: Roxanne Beard rbeard@mckendree.edu (618) 537-6988
Printing support: Tim Mullins tmmullins@mckendree.edu (618) 537-6927
Blackboard support: Erin Campbell emcampbell@mckendree.edu (618) 537-6445

OER resources at Holman Library:
CHOOSING THE RIGHT OER:

Similar to choosing the perfect textbook, selecting appropriate OER can be in-depth but is well worth the effort. Here are some helpful steps you might follow:

1. Check out the **core content**. Does this OER cover the bulk of what your students need to learn in this class?

2. Consider how **accessible** the OER is for all types of learners. Is the language and style overly technical or, conversely, is it scholarly enough for your students? Aim for an appropriate tone and balance.

3. What **restrictions** (if any) exist for this OER content? Examine the licensing and copyright disclaimers. Can you adapt or revise the OER for non-commercial use? Are there parties that need recognition if so?
   *For help with this step, please do not hesitate to contact the library.*

4. Think about how the OER **fits into your class**. Will it serve as the primary text? Might it dovetail nicely with another OER? Does the library have access to articles that could act as supplemental Blackboard readings?

5. As you gather OER and other resources, think about the **big picture**. Layout the resources and content alongside your learning objectives and weekly goals. Note any gaps as you plan the syllabus for the semester.

RUBRIC LINKS

   This is a very detailed rubric with explanations of the categories. A great place to start!

   This is a simple, one-page rubric.

   This is a two-page detailed grid with numerical values assigned to each category.

   Similar to the above rubric, but shorter.