PDXOpen: PSU’s Open Textbook Initiative

KAREN BJORK, HEAD OF DIGITAL INITIATIVES, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
“...higher education shall be equally accessible to all...”

*United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
Agenda

Brief history of the PDXOpen Textbook Initiative

Collaborative approaches to open textbook publishing
  ◦ Working with experts to support program participants

Process of working with faculty
  ◦ Difficulty of estimating cost and time to develop an open textbook
  ◦ Understanding author needs
  ◦ Supporting updates and editions

Developing donor relationships
TELL US: How much did you spend on textbooks this term?

Almost nothing. Scanning, I spent $375 on textbooks. I didn’t even get 2 of them. (I returned 1 book.)

I spent 2 hours of my precious $40 on fees. My professor wanted me to buy a book.

I spent 2 hours of my precious $40 on fees. My professor wanted me to buy a book. I didn’t understand.

NONE! I rented them through Amazon, $50. They don’t keep books you don’t need.

Just enough to make me cry. T-T

About 1/3 of what I would have paid at the PSU bookstore.

More than my prof. who “doesn’t make enough to put 1 on reserve” ($100 textbook that we read in class). I didn’t buy that.
Why Create a Program

Recasts the academic library’s longstanding mission to facilitate research and remove barriers to information.

Dovetails nicely with emerging field of library publishing and emphasis on Open Access
Getting Started - 2012

- The University Provost’s Challenge, Fall 2012
  - Awarded $15,000 fund open access textbooks

- Campus-Wide call for proposal in May 2013
  - Five proposals selected
  - Projects received $2,500

- Projects completed December 2014
Progress

WHAT HAVE WE DONE:

4 rounds of funding
10 open textbook published
11 in production
Reached over 1,000 students and saved students $100,000 on the cost of their textbooks

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxopen/8/

WHAT HAVE WE PUBLISHED:

Mathematics (2nd Edition)
Spanish (2nd Edition)
Arabic
Korean
Japanese x 2
Special Education
Gender and Sexuality Studies
Intensive English Language
GIS – Urban Planning
In Production

Summer / Fall 2017
Cliff Breedlove, *Arabic and English Sentence Patterns: A Comparative Guide*

Annabelle Dolidon and Stéphanie Roulon, *HISTOIRE D’AVENIRS: Science Fiction for Intermediate and Advanced French*

Anne Greenhoe and Michele Miller, *Pathways: From English Language Study to Academic Study*

Della Jean Abrahams, *Communication Beginnings: An Introductory Listening and Speaking Text for English Language Learners*

Emiko Konomi, *Beginning Japanese for Professionals Book 2*

Nila Friedberg, *The New Soviet Person: How to read 1920’s and 1930’s*


Alexander H. Sandtortv, *How to be a successful organic chemist*

Winter 2018
Shane Abrams, *Introduction to College Writing*

Spring / Summer 2018
Jeffery L. Johnson, *Inferring and Explaining*

Leanne Serbulo, *Urban Literacy: Learning to Read the City Around You*
Call for Proposals for Open Textbooks

© March 28, 2016  ▪ News

With the continued success of Portland State University Library’s open textbook project, PDX Open, the Library is pleased to announce a new round of funding for the development of open access textbooks by PSU faculty.

Proposals are due May 6, 2016.

Open textbooks are digital in format and made freely available over the web for students at Portland State and beyond. Open textbooks are published in PDXScholar, the University’s institutional repository managed by PSU Library. Currently we have published eleven open textbooks authored by PSU faculty.

PSU Library seeks proposals for texts that are comprehensive works geared toward a specific field of study. Preference will be given to proposals with applicability towards multiple, high-enrollment courses taught by faculty in a single department at Portland State.

A PSU faculty member must be sole or lead author.

Faculty authors whose proposals are accepted for publication will receive a $2,500 grant. For more information on how the funds may be allocated, please see the Open Access Textbook Publishing FAQ.

Please see the proposal submission form for details on what to submit with your application.
Web submission form
• Information about the open textbook
• Information about Author including a current CV
• Letter of support from Department Chair, Assistant/Associate Dean
• Detailed budget if requesting more funding
• List of 2–3 possible peer-reviewers for your manuscript (At least 2 reviewers must not be affiliated with PSU)

Schedule a meeting with each applicant to discuss project before final decision. It is here that if the project is a good fit
PDXOpen – Services Offered

- Stipend of $2,500
- Assistance with copyright clearance
- ISBN registration
- Cover design templates
- Creative Commons licensing support
- Print on demand services
- Assistance with hiring and budget spending
- Workshops on self-publishing and copyright
- Project Manager
Collaboration and Partnership – Publishing

**Project Manager**
- Establish timelines
- Manage author expectations
- Budget consultation
  - Working with Library Fiscal Analysts
  - Working with HR
- Discuss project and issues that have arise
- Connect authors to publishing experts
- Provide advice on copyright
- Discuss publishing guidelines
  - Formatting, media, style and file requirements

**Faculty**
- Curriculum design
  - Inviting authors from other institutions to co-author
- Peer-Review – inviting academics worldwide

**Ooligan Press**
- Offered workshop to authors on self-publishing academic work
- Guidance on hiring copyeditors, designers and proofreaders
- Hired graduate students to convert PDFs to EPub
“Publishing a book — an Open Textbook, or a traditional one — is not a solitary endeavour.”
“The funding and expert advice provided by PSU Library's Open Textbook Initiative allowed me to develop a peer-edited textbook that reflects the latest curricular developments in my discipline without the excesses of traditional textbook publishing: excessive scope, size, and cost. Of particular value were the funding for peer editors and layout, as well as the meetings with publishing and editing experts”

Dr. Robert Sanders, Leyendas y arquetipos del Romanticismo español, Segunda edición
Textbooks have had over 15,000 downloads from 162 countries. Most popular book, Introduction to Mathematical Analysis (First Edition) has had 4,861 downloads.
I plan to use this textbook in a Civil Engineering GIS Applications course. The first four chapters are perfect for the student with no previous GIS knowledge. These chapters will help the student understand different data models, proper use of projections, topology, and the different types of thematic maps.

Review of Spatial Thinking in Planning Practice: An Introduction to GIS. Review by Gianna Cothren, Associate Professor Civil Engineering, University of New Orleans

“This book will be an appropriate textbook to assign in small chapters for my students to read in an online Understanding Autism course at The University of Toledo.”

Review of Comprehensive Individualized Curriculum and Instructional Design: Curriculum and Instruction for Students with Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorders. Review by Brittany Joseph, Adjunct Instructor, The University of Toledo
The Library is a leader in the use and creation of open textbooks. Donors, faculty, Deans, and the Alumni Association are among our partners in this initiative.
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From Provost Sona Andrews’ blog
https://psuprovostblog.com/2015/03/31/here-is-how-psu-can-reduce-textbook-costs/
PSU Alumni Association and Library Aim to Reduce Student Costs and Enhance Learning

Updated January 26, 2017: Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal for an open access textbook. The deadline for submissions now has passed.

With generous support from the Portland State University Alumni Association, the Portland State University Library is pleased to announce a new round of funding that will expand its open textbook initiative, PDXOpen. As a result, PSU faculty have financial support to create at least 5 new open textbooks. Ultimately, open textbooks reduce costs for students and enhance student learning.

PDXOpen textbooks have saved PSU students $85,094 as of Fall 2016. Since the program began in 2013, PSU faculty have published 10 open textbooks. Support from the PSU Alumni Association allows the Library to work with PSU faculty and provide a platform to make open textbooks accessible to students.
How Has the Funding Worked

- **Winter 2014** - Pilot Project funded by the Provost’s Challenge reTHINK PSU project, resulted in the publication of five open access textbooks
- **Spring 2015** - 2nd Round – funded by Robin and Robert Holmes, library donor funds, and the Intensive English Language Program (IELP), resulted in publication of five open access textbooks
- **Fall 2015** - Funding to join Open Textbook Network, Provost
- **2015\2016** Established the Open Textbook and Course Materials Initiative PSU Foundation Fund
- **Spring 2016** - 3rd Round – funded by Donor funds. Open textbooks will be published by October 2017
- **Fall 2016** - Funding for Open Textbook Adoption workshop, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean funding
- **Winter 2016** - 4th Round – funded by Alumni Association. Open Textbooks will be published by Winter 2017 / 2018
Lessons Learned – Collaboration and Support

• Affordability resonates
• Identify your stakeholders
• Identify and use your “champions”
• Include alumni and donors
• Use collaborative efforts (i.e., Open Textbook Network)
• Use your campus experts
Lessons Learned – Publishing

• Importance of Peer-Reviewers
• Project Manager and established timeline
• Managing author’s expectations
• Providing workshops on copyright and self-publishing
• Student involvement
• Open to the world, quality is very important
• Clear on services offered
Questions?