First effort - Pre-Calculus
My first effort at an OER was a PreCalculus textbook written in MS Word using GRAPH graphing software (www.padawan.dk) for graphics. I’ve since translated this into \LaTeX. Sample pages are shown below.

Second Effort - Trigonometry
My next effort was a Trigonometry textbook written in \LaTeX. There was a significant learning curve, however \LaTeX is a powerful open source publishing software package. The cover was done using an open source photo from Wikimedia and our graphic designer on campus put it together using InDesign.

Third Effort - College Algebra
The cover for the College Algebra text I did myself, again using a Wikimedia image and Adobe Acrobat together with \LaTeX. Downloading and setting up \LaTeX can be daunting, but I believe that it is worth the effort. I had the opportunity at ORMATYC a few years ago to attend a session on \LaTeX with Alex Jordan from Portland CC, which was very helpful.

\LaTeX code
Some important parts of \LaTeX code involve the “tabular” command, which allows you to manually establish tabs in a page, and the “tikzpicture” and “pgfplots” commands which control graphing.

I’ve put together all three of these texts into a single 500 page “College Algebra and Trigonometry” text, which I have available on a flash drive, or you can send me an email and I’ll send you a copy.

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