Saving students money at K-State (and beyond)

Rebel Cummings-Sauls
Today we are going to go on a tour of KSU's open and alternative textbook projects.

The first stop on our tour is also the first textbook project the library supported. Here we see the Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative, [http://www.lib.k-state.edu/open-textbook](http://www.lib.k-state.edu/open-textbook)

The video that you see here, [https://youtu.be/nHjsyW2RJBj](https://youtu.be/nHjsyW2RJBj), is the brand new promotion for this initiative produced and funded by the student government on campus. They are also producing a second video featuring the President of K-State to gather donor support. The current student body president and vice president ran (and won by over 80%) on a platform campaign supporting open and alternative textbooks, [http://www.kstatecollegian.com/2015/03/04/hurtig-tinker-elaborate-on-platforms/](http://www.kstatecollegian.com/2015/03/04/hurtig-tinker-elaborate-on-platforms/). Before and especially since the students have played a large role in supporting these efforts. In fact, initial funding for the first round of these resources came directly from the students.

Clicking on past award winners, [https://www.lib.k-state.edu/open-textbooks-awards](https://www.lib.k-state.edu/open-textbooks-awards), shows you a list by year of recipients. Faculty members are given any option in creating or adopting their textbook. They may:

- Write an Open Access Textbook
- Adopt an Open Access Textbook
- Adopt Alternative Resources
- Adopt Alternative and Open Resources

Approximately 150,000 in funds have been made available to date. With close to 100,000 currently distributed; estimated student savings have reached over 1 million dollars. The great news is that this number is still growing and will continue to grow as these textbooks are steadily used in the courses.

By the suggestion of the new student government, an icon is being developed to be added to the course catalog for easy identification by students of courses with open/alternative textbooks. The development of this icon came through joint collaboration with students, faculty, libraries, and communications and marketing. We look forward to implementing this into the next semester's catalog. By selecting this icon in the catalog the students will be brought to an information page that will explain the icon and that they will have an open or alternative textbook for their course, [www.lib.k-state.edu/oar](http://www.lib.k-state.edu/oar).

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### Academics

**History**

If no dates are listed directly under a course, then the course meets Tuesday, January 19, 2016 through Friday, May 6, 2016.

#### HIST101 Western Civilization: The Rise of Europe

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#### HIST102 Western Civilization: The Modern Era

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<td>M W F</td>
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Current plans include encouraging past and future recipients who are using an open access textbook to deposit the content into New Prairie Press, http://newprairiepress.org/. We will be creating a separate collection for these items. Currently we have one signed publishing agreement with faculty looking to publish in the Spring/Summer of 2016.

We also make our criteria and application form open and available through this site, which you may explore further as you wish.

The next stop on our list is a recent and emerging project: Affordable Textbook Project, http://www.lib.k-state.edu/digital-scholarship (Public information to come)

For this project we are looking for ways to help students obtain free or cheaper access to their textbooks. A group of library volunteers have come together to form the supporting group, although we look to expand this to include any member of the university. This group decided to target courses with top enrollment, highest dropout rate, highest Pell Grant recipients, and those with the highest international enrollment. Working with the Assessment office on campus we were able to obtain these course numbers for the previous fall and spring semester. The contract with our bookstore requires they distribute a list of textbooks upon request, so with a simple email we obtained our list of courses and their textbooks. This list also led to a target list for the open/alternative textbook fund for this fall semester.

With the gathered textbook list we will compare this to our current holdings to see what we have already purchased or had donated, create a publisher list for contacting to request a free copy for reserves, and create a faculty list to contact for donation of their copy for reserves. The next step is to gather estimations of how much it would cost to obtain one copy of each textbook from our target list. With this figure we hope to submit a proposal for an internal award to conduct a pilot project in the spring semester.

Along with library, publisher, and faculty supported donations we hope to support student textbook donations. We feel that some students who may get little to nothing for some textbooks on buy-back would consider donating these books instead if they knew it would save their fellow students from buying it the next semester. For those who may not be interested in just giving their textbooks away we may consider hosting a textbook trade event.

Along with trying to provide access to a copy of each textbook on our list, we plan to provide students with tools and resources. This brings us to our third and final stop on the tour: (These are just some examples)
Textbook Rentals

- [www.barnesandnoble.com/h/textbooks/rental](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/h/textbooks/rental)
- [www.chegg.com/textbooks/](http://www.chegg.com/textbooks/)

Textbook Buy-back

- [www.bookfinder.com/buyback/](http://www.bookfinder.com/buyback/)
- [www.barnesandnoble.com/textbook/textbook-buyback.jsp](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/textbook/textbook-buyback.jsp)

Used Textbook Vendors

- [http://www.bookfinder.com/books/used_textbooks/](http://www.bookfinder.com/books/used_textbooks/)
- [http://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/textbooks](http://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/textbooks)

Price Comparisons

- [https://www.textsurf.com/](https://www.textsurf.com/)
- [http://www.becksbooks.com/textbook/compare-prices-online](http://www.becksbooks.com/textbook/compare-prices-online)
- [http://www.bigwords.com/](http://www.bigwords.com/)

Alternative Vendors

- [http://m.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=textbooks&isNewKw=1&isRefine=true&mfs=KWCLK&acimp=0&_trksid=p2056088.m2428.l1311.R1.TR12.TRC2.Xtextboo&sqp=textboo](http://m.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=textbooks&isNewKw=1&isRefine=true&mfs=KWCLK&acimp=0&_trksid=p2056088.m2428.l1311.R1.TR12.TRC2.Xtextboo&sqp=textboo)

Open Access Textbook Options

- [http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/](http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/)
- [http://writing.colostate.edu/textbooks/](http://writing.colostate.edu/textbooks/)
- [http://textbooks.opensuny.org/](http://textbooks.opensuny.org/)
- [http://www.library.umass.edu/services/teaching-and-learning/oer/oer-for-educators/open-textbooks/](http://www.library.umass.edu/services/teaching-and-learning/oer/oer-for-educators/open-textbooks/)
- [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/oa_textbooks/)
- [http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/](http://www.collegeopentextbooks.org/)
- [http://libguides.northwestern.edu/c.php?g=114989&p=748138](http://libguides.northwestern.edu/c.php?g=114989&p=748138)
- [http://www.resourcepository.org/](http://www.resourcepository.org/)
- [http://www.theorangegrove.org/](http://www.theorangegrove.org/)
- [http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/index.html)
- [http://www.oercommons.org/](http://www.oercommons.org/)
- [http://www.nclor.org/nclorprod/access/home.do](http://www.nclor.org/nclorprod/access/home.do)
- [http://nsdl.org/](http://nsdl.org/)
- [http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm](http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm)
- [http://liberry.com/](http://liberry.com/)
Additional resources on K-State’s Open/Alternative Textbook project
http://www.niso.org/news/events/2014/webinars/open_initiatives/
https://www.math.ksu.edu/math100/fall-2015/
http://libguides.humboldt.edu/openedu/openedu-kins

Articles on K-State’s Open/Alternative Textbook project
http://www.kstatecollegian.com/2015/10/21/letter-from-the-president-6/
http://www.gbtribune.com/m/archives/84204/
http://directnetwork.mbsdirect.net/can-open-source-materials-benefit-faculty
http://crln.acrl.org/content/76/6/332.full
http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2013/12/23/open-access-everything/