

Working with Faculty to Source Affordable Textbooks for Students

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MIDLAND UNIVERSITY
Luther Library

Midland University Demographics



Enrollment: Approximately 1,600 undergraduate & 300 graduate students

39 states and 11 countries

Institution type: 4-year, private, primarily traditional undergraduates. Affiliated with the ELCA

Other: Majority of students involved in athletics or the performing arts

Midland 1:1 Initiative-Apple Distinguished School





Names and Locations

- ★ Midland College was founded in Atchison, KS in 1887
 - Moved to Fremont in 1919
 - ★ Luther College was founded in Wahoo, NE in 1883
 - Joined Midland College in 1962
 - ★ Midland College and Luther College joined together in 1962 and became Midland Lutheran College
 - ★ Refunded and renamed as Midland University in 2010
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Luther Library Demographics



Staff: 1 Librarian (Library Director), Help Desk, Academic Resource Center, IT (8 staff)

Collection: Fiction, Nonfiction, DVDs, Music Scores, Closed Reserve

Archives: Extensive University Archives dating back to its founding (1883)



Session Goals

Communication between the Librarian and Faculty and Staff

My role in Textbook Affordability

Engaging Faculty and Staff with the idea of Textbook Affordability

Surveying students on Textbook Affordability and the idea of moving to OER

Next steps



Communication

- July 2019-Start Date
- Main Goal-Building trust and communication
 - Hiatus between librarians caused lack of communication and resource instruction
- Frequent meetings with faculty and deans
 - What is lacking?
 - What is currently happening?
 - What do they want their students to focus on?
 - What resources could be improved?
- Bi-weekly Newsletter
 - Keeping campus up-to-date on Library news and events
 - Reiterating information (resources available, library instruction, tutorials, Canvas course, etc.)
- Feedback
 - Always collecting feedback from faculty, staff, and students
 - What will make their Library experience better and aid towards their academic success?



Introducing OER

Working closely with students helped educate me on their frustrations and concerns

Researched OER websites, resources, and alternative options (textbook subscriptions)

Compiled real data on a typical freshman's first semester textbook cost at Midland

Found comparable OER textbooks that can replace what a freshman would purchase

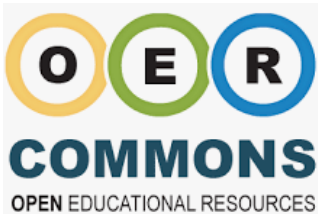
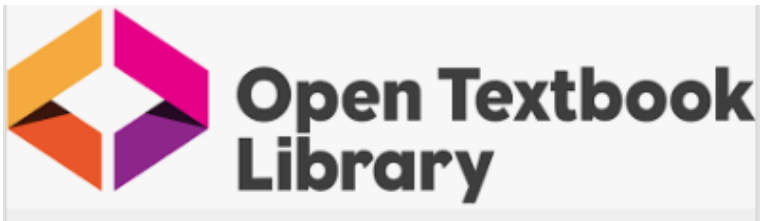
Found data from other schools about how textbook costs affected their grades, stress, class attendance, and school retention

Researched other library OER libguides to provide more information and evidence of the positives of switching to OER resources

Zoom meeting - emailed faculty and staff the calendar invitation and zoom link to my presentation



The Presentation



- Presented to Faculty and Staff March 12, 2021
- Invited to present to NLC's Live Show February 16, 2022

Slides:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1X38rhunlBlJveoFtsJC7zhm6f1f8fLIDIGsewzZo4Qo/edi>
t#slide=id.g442eb61d9d_0_0

Presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qBHxTbxV7E>



Faculty and Staff Feedback

- Mainly positive feedback
 - Biggest concern is starting from scratch
- A couple faculty members were already using OER
- Some faculty members were unaware of OER
- Faculty members reached out to me for assistance
 - Anatomy & Physiology, Composition, Literature, Communications
- Meeting with Health Sciences
 - How can this work for us?



Textbook Affordability Survey

- Sent textbook affordability survey (Google Form) to students Spring 2022
- Received 109 responses
- Received positive feedback on implementing OER
- Collected vital feedback regarding current financial frustrations with textbooks and what they hope faculty will do going forward



LUTHER LIBRARY RESOURCES AND TEXTBOOK SURVEY RESULTS

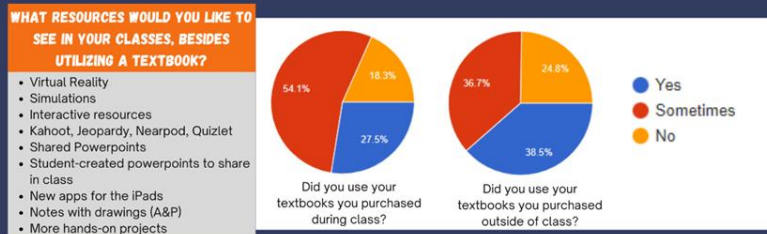
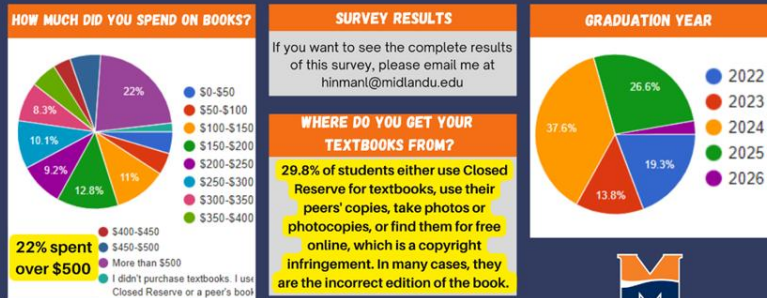
This survey was meant to collect feedback from students regarding the textbook affordability and accessibility on campus. In addition, this survey also collected feedback on what resources students wanted to see in the classroom aside from textbooks, and Library related resources and programming.

Based on the responses to this survey, students collectively agreed that free or more affordable textbook options would help them financially and academically. If you need any assistance with choosing Open Education Resources, Open Source Textbooks, or more affordable textbook options for your students, please email me at hinmanl@midlandu.edu



SCAN ME

QR Code to Open Educational Resources Presentation



WOULD YOU BE MORE WILLING TO UTILIZE YOUR TEXTBOOK IF IT WAS AVAILABLE FOR FREE?

"Free or cheaper textbooks would be exceedingly helpful."
If textbooks were free, I feel like students and staff would include or use them more often."
"Yes I would. It's daunting to buy a 100 dollar textbook."
"I would be much more willing to use my books if they were free. I would read textbooks for classes I am not even taking if they were free."

Student Feedback Regarding Textbook Usage:
"The books are so expensive and a huge cost on top of tuition."
"I have chosen not to buy required material and try and use classmates, I'm broke. Sometimes it hurts my grade."
"Although price is one of the issues, a bigger issue is that we are not having to use our textbooks enough to be worth the price we pay. I have spent all this money on them so I want to use them if I can."
"If the textbooks were free it would be a huge help for me after spending so much on books that I'm only going to use for a couple months. I'm stuck with trying to sell them back and can't even sell them for the price I bought them for."
"I would strongly support a more affordable or free option."
"Some are overpriced and super hard to find."

Textbook Affordability Survey Highlights

- Over 29% of students either use Closed Reserve for textbooks, use their peers' copies, take photos or photocopies, or find them for free online (copyright issues). In many cases, they are the incorrect edition of the book
- 22% of students spent over \$500 on books for the semester
- 100% of students collectively agreed to implement OER



Survey Quotes from Students

Would you be more willing to utilize your textbook if it was available for free?

“Yes I would. It’s daunting to buy a 100 dollar textbook.”

“I would be much more willing to use my books if they were free. I would read textbooks for classes I am not even taking if they were free.”

“I have chosen not to buy required material and try and use classmates, I’m broke. Sometimes it hurts my grades.”

“If the textbooks were free it would be a huge help for me after spending so much on books that I’m only going to use for a couple months. I’m stuck with trying to sell them back and can’t even sell them for the price I bought them for.”

“I would strongly support a more affordable or free option.”



Next Steps

- Survey faculty and staff
 - Choosing their textbooks and availability
 - Feedback on OER
 - What assistance is needed
 - Their students and their textbook usage
- Present to faculty and staff
 - About OER
 - Faculty and staff survey results
 - Student survey results
- Remind faculty and staff
 - Newsletter and emails
 - Provide assistance with finding affordable textbook and OER options
- Adjuncts
 - More visibility with the adjuncts-especially before semester begins



Questions?



Luther Library

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