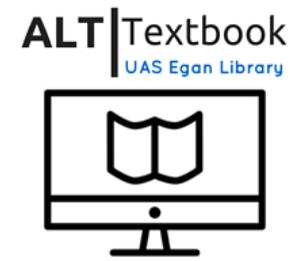


Alt-Textbook Project

In Action @UAS



uas.alaska.edu/library/alt-textbook.html

Increasing Access to Course Materials

These examples by UAS faculty made materials available to their students on day 1 and at little to no cost.

Math 055: Elementary Algebra: In spring 2016, the UAS Math department led by Assistant Prof. Megan Buzby purchased 100 used copies of the 8th edition of Elementary Algebra: Concepts & Applications to be provided at no-cost for a semester length checkout. These books cost the department \$400. If 100 students purchased this book new (9th ed) @ \$200 the cost to students would be \$20,000/semester (or \$10,000/semester for used copies) That's one heck of a return on investment for students taking developmental courses.

UAS Construction Technology Assistant Prof. Robin Gilcrst will utilize the library licensed ebook, Up and Running with AutoCAD 2014 in

CT 175: Introduction to AutoCad. Egan Library invested \$160, student costs to purchase the print book would be ~\$90. UAS students during Fall 2016 alone save \$1800 (20 students enrolled).

Reducing Student Cost to Degree

Cost to degree and cost of materials represent more than a short-term financial barrier, debt incurred by students during their programs will impact their transition to the workforce following graduation.

\$20,000-30,000 estimated student savings on textbooks in year 1 thanks to UAS faculty!

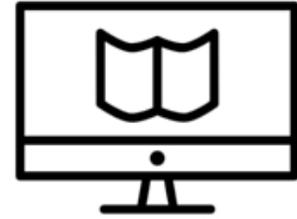
Increasing Awareness

Compared to faculty participating in the Babson national study in 2014 (n2100), UAS Faculty surveyed in 2016 are more aware of OER.

75% some degree of OER awareness

23% unaware of OER

The Egan Library Alt-Textbook Project website contains links to relevant research on the impacts and value of open educational resources (OER) and open textbooks. A comprehensive repository of existing OER, links to other OER collections and 10 resources reviewed by UAS faculty during the 2016 pilot workshop.



30,000

in savings to UAS students through Alt-Textbook initiatives.
\$17 in value to students for every \$1 spent by Egan Library.

more info at: uas.alaska.edu/library

Alt-Textbook Project Initiatives

Textbooks on Course Reserve: Faculty check with the Egan Library circulation desk to see if we have a textbook available for your course or consider donating one for students who don't have access to required course materials. We've heard from students and they appreciate this service whether they've forgotten their book at home, have bought it but are waiting for it to arrive or simply can't afford it.

E-books for the Classroom: Egan Library will acquire e-Book versions of required textbooks if they are available electronically. The Alt-Textbook Project supports the purchase of e-books as a strategy for reducing costs for students while increasing access to recommended or required readings. Once purchased, UAS has perpetual rights to the e-Book and it remains within our online collection. We make every attempt to purchase e-Books with unlimited access. However, if a limited number of users is our only option for an e-Book, we will consult with you prior to purchase. This is one way UAS Faculty can address the problem with textbooks and increase students access to learning materials (and no waiting for books to arrive). Simply fill out the request form and we'll do the rest, <http://bit.ly/ebooks4class>

Alt-Textbook Info Sessions & Workshops: Be on the lookout for additional opportunities to learn more about textbook alternatives, open access publishing, explore and review OER and get together to discuss scholarly publishing and opening education. Through the new Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) we hope to offer faculty a forum to engage in the scholarship of teaching. **The next Alt-Textbook Info Session will be held Friday September 15th.**

OER Consultations: Interested in learning more or adopting an OER in your course(s) but can't make an info-session? Contact me to schedule a consultation. I'm also happy to compile a list of

resources for consideration. Alternately consider an assignment in which your students identify OER to use in student lead activities and then collect these resources for future use.

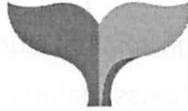
Jonas Lamb | Public Services Librarian & Associate Professor
Egan Library Room 202, 796-6440, jflamb2@alaska.edu
uas.alaska.edu/library/alt-textbook.html

UAS Student Support for Alt-Textbook Project Initiatives

- **UAS Whalesong article:** In April 2016, staff writer Erin Laughlin profiled the project in her piece, "[Alt-Textbooks at UAS](#)" which posits textbook affordability efforts as an opportunity for UAS to offset the burden of more tuition increases on students.
- **USUAS-JC Resolution 16-17:** In April 2017, the United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus passed a resolution in support of UAS Alt-Textbook Project and Open Textbooks at UAS. It's included in this packet.

So What Can You Do?

- Consider whether you think that free, unrestricted, day-one access for students to your course materials could affect their retention and student success? Why or why not?
- Consider replacing a commercial textbook with an open textbook or OER in your AY17-18 courses. Or at least consider the cost of your current text.
- Checkout an event during Open Education Week, www.openeducationweek.org
- Review or rate an existing OER.
- Share what you learn today with a colleague.
- Contribute to/author an OER project in your area.
- Let your students know what efforts you are making to keep them engaged and reduce their education expenses.



The United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus

Second Reading

Resolution 1617 — 09

Expanding UAS Alt-Textbook Library

Sponsored by: Senator O'Donnell

Date of introduction: March 31, 2017

Purpose: To expand the availability of UAS open-textbook library.

Whereas: The USUAS-JC is concerned with rising tuition costs forcing students to look for ways to reduce their educational costs;

Whereas: the USUAS-JC is aware of departments, such as the math department, making textbooks for certain classes free for students on their own initiative;

Whereas: Open textbooks remove a financial barrier for many students, and studies have shown that the more available resources are for a class, the more likely a student will put in work for that class;

Whereas: the USUAS-JC recognizes that potential incoming students may have an incentive to apply to a university with low-cost or no-cost resources;

Whereas: The cost of textbooks have increased by 88% over the past twenty years (four times the rate of inflation). During that same time college tuition and fees have increased by 63%¹

¹ PIRG report "Access Denied"

Whereas: The USUAS-JC recognizes that students nationwide report taking out more student loans to cover the cost of class materials²;

Whereas: According to the 2016 UAS Teaching and Learning Resources survey, it was found that the cost of textbooks is the fourth factor that UAS faculty consider when choosing a textbook for a course;

Whereas: the survey further found that of the 34 faculty members who took the survey, 57% have never used open educational resources (OERs) but will consider using OERs in the next 3 years, 39% of teachers have used OERs as supplementary course material (occasionally or regularly), and 18% have used OERs as primary course material (occasionally or regularly);

Be it enacted that: USUAS-JC supports the expansion of an alternative textbook library on campus in order to facilitate innovative higher learning;

Be it further enacted that: this library will be utilized by faculty with affordability for students in mind;

Be it further enacted that: this resolution will be sent to UAS Faculty Senate, UAS Egan Library, and any other relevant groups.

This resolution was passed on: April 14, 2017



David Russell-Jensen, President

² <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/access-denied>

SAMPLE FACULTY ENDORSEMENT FORM



MAKE TEXTBOOKS AFFORDABLE

The average student budget for textbooks and other supplies is more than \$1,200 a year, making this the biggest out-of-pocket educational expense for most students. For many, the high cost of textbooks represents a serious barrier to college affordability.

The most effective solution to high costs is the use of open textbooks—faculty-written, high quality textbooks that are offered under an open license that allows free digital access and low-cost printing.

Open textbooks are available in many subjects and faculty can even customize them for their courses.

As a faculty member who shares students' concerns about high textbook prices, I am willing to:

- Receive and read more information about open textbooks.
- Show my support for an Open Textbook Program that helps introduce open textbooks on campus.
- Meet with an Open Textbook Ambassador to learn more about the open textbook options available for my courses.
- Consider adopting an open textbook in one of my classes.

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____