Authoring Open Textbooks

A Case Study
Opening opportunities to the future of education

We believe that the future of education is open. We support initiatives that advance that vision coupled with tangible results that build access to resources, research, and communities committed to open education.

Initiatives

LIBRARY
A source of openly licensed textbooks available for anyone to download and use for free.

NETWORK
An alliance of higher education institutions committed to improving access, affordability, and academic success through the use of open textbooks.

FELLOWSHIP
The Center for Open Education supports the research of 4-8 Open Education Research Fellows annually.
The Pilot
Pre - Production - Post
Pre-Production

Training

Roles

The textbook
re-examined
ADOPT → ADAPT → USE
A Framework
Structure

Unit
Chapters
Sections
Sub-Sections
Forward
Introduction

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Production

Writing!

4 Days

Divide and Conquer
Writing is like teaching on paper.
Results
What inspired you in writing an open textbook?

“The chance to design a class with the book exactly the way we wanted it.”

“The chance to choose how it works with your curriculum.”

“The ability to update the course content more frequently than 10 years!”
How do you think your students felt about this textbook versus the traditional textbooks?

- Prefer the open book
- Slightly prefer the open book
- No opinion either way
- Slightly prefer the traditional book
- Prefer the traditional book
Your group produced a book in multiple formats. How are you using it in your classroom?

- PDF: 42.86%
- Web Access: 28.57%
- ePub: 14.29%
- Personal Teacher Website: 14.29%
- Integrated to Class Learning Management System (Moodle, Canvas, etc) site: 14.29%
Would you prefer purchasing a book or creating a book for your classroom after this experience?

“Creating! I felt more invested in the all the lessons, not just the book.”

“Depends on the course. For a subject I am passionate about I’d definitely want to create my own”

“Purchasing, but, only because of the time involved. If the district allows for more time to write, open textbooks are awesome!”
AUTHORING OPEN TEXTBOOKS

Melissa Faldin, Karen Lauritsen

A guide for people who want to make open textbooks.

This guide is for faculty authors, librarians, project managers and others who are involved in the production of open textbooks in higher education and K-12. Content includes a checklist for getting started, publishing program case studies, textbook organization and elements, writing resources and an overview of useful tools.
Written and compiled by Melissa Falldin and Karen Lauritsen. With contributors:

- **Caitie Finlayson**, PhD. Assistant Professor, Geography Dept., University of Mary Washington.
- **Dianna Fisher**, PhD. Director of Open Oregon State.
- **Linda Frederiksen**, M.L.S. Head of Access Services, Washington State University, Vancouver.
- **Ralph Morelli**, PhD. Professor, Computer Science, Emeritus, Trinity College.
- **Shane Nackerud**, Technology Lead, Library Initiatives, University of Minnesota Libraries.
- **Deb Quintal**, Director of Curriculum Development & Associate Counsel, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI).
- **Anita R. Walz**, Open Education, Copyright & Scholarly Communications Librarian, Library Liaison to Economics, Mathematics, and Legal Studies, Virginia Tech.