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## Affordable Course Materials: Electronic Textbooks and Open Educational Resources

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AFFORDABLE COURSE MATERIALS: ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS AND OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. Edited by Diaz, Chris. Chicago: American Library Association, 2017, 144pp. ISBN 978-0-8389-1580-6.

A major issue facing colleges and universities today is the escalating cost of course materials and the consequent financial burden placed upon students. In the last few years alone, textbook costs have risen at several times the rate of inflation. Sometimes students avoid buying course materials due to high prices, thereby putting their academic performance at risk.

The “textbook affordability problem” in higher education is the focus of this book. Consisting of nine case studies from academic libraries across the country, *Affordable Course Materials* offers a profile of how each campus has dealt with the issue of expensive textbooks and course materials. In some cases (chapters 1, 6, and 7), a system of grants was developed by the library to provide an incentive to faculty members to use open educational resources (OER). A couple of libraries (chapters 2 and 3) either tried or actually did collaborate with the campus bookstore in addressing the problem; the library at University of North Carolina at Charlotte found that getting the bookstore to cooperate could be a challenge as the library’s particular program could cut into the bookstore’s bottom line. Another library (chapter 8) focused on a partnership between librarians and instructional designers. Louisiana State University Libraries (chapter 4) shifted their collection development focus from demand-driven acquisition to large e-book collections, especially those that offered DRM-free titles, an unlimited number of simultaneous users, and perpetual access and archival rights. Chapter 5 describes the unique collection development challenges facing the New York University libraries after NYU opened an international campus in Shanghai. Efforts to deal with escalating course material costs were bolstered in Florida universities (chapters 8 and 9) by recent legislation addressing textbook affordability. The authors of the University of Florida case study (chapter 9) offer several suggestions for long-term marketing and outreach to promote the use of OER on their campus.

This book serves as “a guide for . . . offering solutions that may be implemented at both large and small institutions.” (x) Since textbook affordability is a major issue on most campuses the case studies presented here would be useful for most college and university librarians. Non-library academic administrators would also benefit from this volume.

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