

# Open Textbooks: A Resource List

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This is a curated list of different Open Text Book Projects initiated by Institutions of higher learning in different countries. These initiatives have been largely funded by various funding agencies to create an alternative to the commercial textbook market. These being new initiatives, the collection is growing gradually and many Institutions are joining and supporting these initiatives. The collection Open Text Books created under each of these projects are worth exploring to identify, evaluate and consider adopting few titles, if not many.

## WHAT IS AN OPEN TEXTBOOK?

An 'open' textbook is a textbook created using an open copyright license, like Creative Commons, and shared with no or low cost at the point of use for students, teachers and members of the public" <https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.427/>

Open textbooks are textbooks that have been funded, published, and licensed to be freely used, adapted, and distributed. [Open Textbook Library](#)

Like traditional textbooks, open textbooks:

- Are written by experts in the field
- Undergo a process of peer review
- Go through professional editing and development
- Publishers and authors are paid for, by the funding organization or grant, instead of relying on sales to pay back their investments

## OPEN TEXTBOOK PROJECTS/PORTALS

### [OpenStax](#)

OpenStax is a non-profit educational initiative based at Rice University. Its mission is to give every student the tools they need to be successful in the classroom. They publish high-quality, peer-reviewed, openly licensed college textbooks that are free online and low cost in print.

### [Open Textbook Library](#)

The Open Textbook Library is supported by members of the [Open Textbook Network](#). The library currently includes 711 textbooks, with more being added regularly. These books have been reviewed to assess their quality by faculty from a variety of colleges and universities.

### [Open SUNY Textbooks](#)

Open SUNY Textbooks is an open access textbook publishing initiative established by libraries of State University of New York and supported by SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grants. This pilot initiative has published high-quality, cost-effective course resources by engaging faculty as authors and peer-reviewers, and libraries as publishing service and for infrastructure support.

### [MIT OPENCOURSEWARE: Online Textbooks](#)

This page is an index to the online textbooks in MIT OpenCourseWare. Each link under this resource takes one to a course or resource page that contains the textbook files. Some of these online textbooks are open-licensed electronic versions of print books. Others are self-published online books, or course notes which are so thorough that they serve as an alternative to a conventional textbook.

### [Luminos \(University of California Press\)](#)

Luminos is University of California Press's Open Access publishing program for monographs. It follows the same high standards for selection, peer review, production and marketing as followed for the traditional program. Luminos is a transformative model, built as a partnership where costs and benefits are shared.

### [BCcampus: Open Textbook Collection](#)

There are several textbooks in the B.C. Open Textbooks Collection (British Columbia) that are original creations or major adaptations of existing works, funded by and published by BC Campus.

### [eCampusOntario Open Library](#)

The eCampusOntario Open Library provides educators and learners with access to more than 250 free and openly licensed educational resources.

### [MERLOT](#)

The MERLOT system provides access to curated online learning and support materials and content creation tools, led by an international community of educators, researchers and learners.

### [UCL Press Open Access Books](#)

The University Press in UK is one of the leading open access scholarly publishers, publishing both traditional peer-reviewed scholarly works and innovative research outputs. Currently it has over 40 open access books.

### [Open Book Publishers](#)

Open Book Publishers, an independent open access academic publisher of monographs in the UK is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise, run by academics who are committed to making high-quality and prize-winning research available to all.

### [Open Textbook Initiative \(Australia\)](#)

The purpose of this project is to establish a university culture in the use and adoption of open educational textbooks as an alternative. One of the key objectives of this initiative is to partner with key learning and teaching staff to curate and review resources for inclusion into the curriculum, encourage adoption and creation of open educational resources (OER) portal to facilitate access to quality materials.

### [LibreTexts: Free the Textbook](#)

The LibreText Project is a leading, non-commercial open textbook organization initiated at the University of California, Davis.

### **[200 Free Textbooks: A Meta Collection](#)**

Free textbooks written by knowledgeable scholars are a relatively new phenomenon. Kindly find below a meta list of 200 Free Textbooks, and check regularly for new additions.

### **OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES SEARCH TOOLS**

#### **[Directory of Open Access Books \(DOAB\)](#)**

Provides access to over 27,968 academic peer-reviewed books from 380 publishers.

#### **[OASIS: Openly Available Sources Integrated Search](#)**

Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (OASIS) is a search tool that aims to make the discovery of open content easier. OASIS currently searches open content from 97 different sources and contains 385,629 records.

#### **[The Mason OER Metafinder \(MOM\): Real-time federated search for OER content](#)**

It helps to find Open Educational Resources. The OER Metafinder launches a real-time, simultaneous search across 22 different sources of open educational materials.

#### **[OER Commons: Open Text Books](#)**

OER Commons is a public digital library of Open Educational Resources. It explores, creates, and collaborate with educators around the world to improve the curriculum.

#### **[National Digital Library of India](#)**

The National Digital library of India (NDLI) is a project under Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. The objective is to collect and collate metadata and provide full text index from several national and international digital libraries, as well as other relevant sources. It is a digital repository containing textbooks, articles, videos, audio books, lectures, simulations, fiction and all other kinds of learning media. The NDLI provides free of cost access to many books in English and in the Indian languages.

### **EVALUATING OPEN TEXTBOOKS**

#### **Open Textbooks Review Criteria**

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/reviews/rubric>

This rubric has been developed by [BCcampus](#).

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