

# A&OER Textbooks and College Students

*Lisa Farrell, MA ISLT,  
Director, Library Services*

*St. Louis Regional Library Network*

**TECH EXPO**

# About us – Fall 2019

Two year community college in Franklin County

95% First-Time, Full-Time Students received financial aid

2,649 Headcount, 1,677 Full-time equivalent

60% Female, 40% Male, majority age 18-19, mean age 22-23

Top programs - AA, Nursing, Education, Pre-engineering, EMT

Campus:

- Union - 45 minutes west of St. Louis
- Rolla - 70 minutes south of Jefferson City

# History of A&OER

2007-2017 English Department struggled with a writing handbook

May 2017 MOBIUS became member of Open Textbook Network

May 2017 Emailed all campus about OTN membership

See e-mail below about [Open Textbook Network](#). This resource will be available to all MOBIUS members including ECC.

“Open textbooks are a solution. The Open Textbook Library provides a growing catalog of free, peer-reviewed, and openly-licensed textbooks.

Explore the library's books to see if an open textbook fits your course's, and students', needs.”

Here are a few of their textbooks and topics.

Student Success <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/SearchResults.aspx?subjectAreald=10>

Engineering <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/SearchResults.aspx?subjectAreald=13>

Journalism, Communication and Media Studies <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/SearchResults.aspx?subjectAreald=16>

2017-18 Faculty actively sought a free handbook option & lower cost reader

English Dept. Sub-committee created and reached out to Library

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 05, 2017 1:49 PM

**To:** Lisa Farrell <[Lisa.Farrell@eastcentral.edu](mailto:Lisa.Farrell@eastcentral.edu)>

**Subject:** Online Handbook

Lisa,

I'm curious if there is an online handbook, like our old Little Brown Handbook, that is online, that can be subscribed to by the institution? I know we have access to OWL, which is what I use, but I'm curious if there are other options out there, along the lines of our other databases, that we might subscribe to for a handbook.



# EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE

Hi John,

As a MOBIUS member we have access to the OPEN Textbook Library. Here's a few that may fit your need.

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=359>

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=284>

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=471>

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=53>

<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=247>

Main page: <http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>

All are adoptable texts you can use in online and face to face classes.

Here's more on MOBIUS' role and responsibilities in the OTN,

<https://mobiusconsortium.org/otn>

Though ECC does not have a campus leader listed, we do have complete access. It's just not something I can take on at this time....training to be a trainer to faculty, getting buy in, getting it established, etc.

Lisa



Spring 2018 MOBIUS provided training on OTN.

MOBIUS Liaison for ECC is ??

Summer 2018 Pilot for embedded English Handbook (Ongoing)  
<https://open.lib.umn.edu/writingforsuccess/front-matter/publisher-information/> (fourth title I recommended)

October 2018 Faculty Development Presentation by John

Fall 2018 A&OER Committee created

Spring 2019 A&OER libguides created, faculty and student focus

2019 Summer Pilot and Fall Pilots with administration support



# Pilot process

Supportive Administration

MOU/ Stipend

Board of Trustees

Textbook selection up to faculty

A&OER Pilot committee

- Online Learning & Educational Technology, Library, Bookstore, Vice President of Academic Affairs, various Faculty.



## Composition 101 Evolution\*

Fall 2015 - \$131,272    Fall 2016 - \$122,884.20

- Little Brown Handbook=\$113.15 + Mercury Reader=\$96.55

Fall 2017 - \$82,110.90

- McGraw-Hill Reader & Connect Handbook Access Bundle = \$143.30

Fall 2018 - \$22,801.40    Fall 2019 - \$21,694.40

- Seagull Reader: Essays=\$34.60 + OER Handbook from OTN

\*If every enrolled student purchased materials at ECC Bookstore



# Response to a 2018 Florida higher education question:

In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

64.2%	Not purchase the required textbook
42.8%	Take fewer courses
40.5%	Not register for a specific course
35.6%	Earn a poor grade
22.9%	Drop a course
18.1%	Withdraw from a course
17.2%	Fail a course

Summer Courses: Gen Bio, *Comp 1*, College Algebra, Public Speaking, *Comp 2*, Trigonometry, American Social Problems

Fall Courses: Intro to Life Science, Public Speaking, College Algebra, Gen Psych, Gen Bio, *Comp 1*, Trigonometry, Gen Sociology, Bio 1, *Comp 2*, *Music Apprec*, Amer Social Problems

Spring Courses: Intro to Life Science, Public Speaking, College Algebra, Gen Psych, Gen Bio, *Prin of Macro*, Trigonometry, Gen Sociology, Bio 2, *Prin of Micro*, *Music Apprec*, American Social Problems, *Comp 1*, *Comp 2*, *American Literature 1865-present*

# The Dollars and (it makes) sense

Summer 2019 – 95 students, 5 courses, saved \$12,000

Fall 2019 – 813 students, 9 courses, 40 sections, saved \$99,000

BIO 121 – 75% bought print from bookstore, digital free

BIO 101 & 111 – 58%

SOC 101 – 26%

PSY 101 – 22%

# How did we communicate to the students

Course schedule :

## **“Open Education Resource Pilot Course**

- This course and section utilizes alternative lower cost educational resources. Lower cost materials may be found in the ECC bookstore. Some electronic textbooks are free, and the link will be found on your Moodle page. Contact your instructor for details.”

Online: Student website portal - “Support Services”

Moodle (LMS) - “Course page”

Library home page - “Quick Links”;

Bookstore: Shelf sign “Required Digital Price \$0.00”

# Cost increase to Library

Minimal! 11 books purchased, \$446

- Through college bookstore or campus copy center when available

If faculty is only requiring digital, Library will purchase print when available

- This includes any access that is only digital, whether OER or access card option, when known

Library use only, course reserve behind Service Desk

# Grades

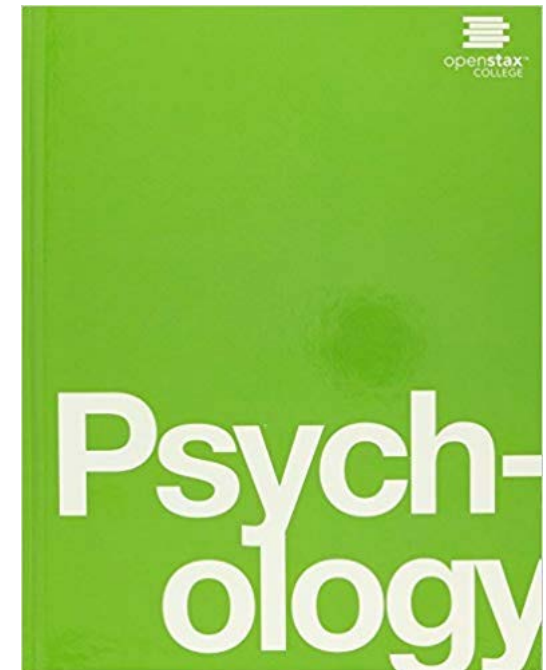
Instructor “A”, Full-time faculty – PSY101, 2 sections, face to face

Fall 2018 Traditional textbook

- 61 enrolled, 6 WX, 56 completed A – F
  - 87% A,B,C and 8% withdraw

Fall 2019 OER textbook

- 49 enrolled, 1 WX, 3 W, 45 completed A – D
  - 98% A,B,C and 8% withdraw





# Grades – PSY101 and SOC101 all faculty (does not include dual credit)

## Traditional FA18– Face to Face classes, 10 sections

- 253 enrolled, 28 WX, 7 W, 218 completed A-F
- 94% A,B,C and 19% withdraw

## OER FA19– Face to Face classes, 12 sections

- 245 enrolled, 21 WX, 16 W, 208 completed A-F
- 89% A,B,C and 15% withdraw

## Traditional FA18– ONLINE classes, 7 sections

- 165 enrolled, 16 WX, 6 W, 143 completed A-F
- 86% A,B,C and 13% withdraw

## OER FA19– ONLINE classes, 9 sections

- 218 enrolled, 28 WX, 7 W, 183 completed A-F
- 86% A,B,C and 16% withdraw

## Faculty Survey Data – 9 responses, FA 19

Ease of Adoption - 6 very high/high (2 n/a)

Ease of Adaption - 4 very high/high & 4 average

Ease of Access for Students - 6 very high/high

Usefulness in the classroom – 2 very, 2 high, 2 avg, 2 low, 1 very low

Supporting materials – 5 high

Students response to text – 4 high, 3 average

Happy with depts. decision for A&OER? 6 very high/high

# Student Survey Data – 157 responses, FA 19

Supports learning the course content – 54% very/high & 10% low/very

*"They aren't as pretty as the more costly textbooks, but I'm not paying for art. I'm paying for educational content."*

*"The homework support for these books is awful."*

Ease of access – 69% very/high & 3% low/very

*"Easy once explained for the first time"*

Compared satisfaction of commercial vs A&OER –  
30% more satisfied with A&OER, 7% less satisfied with A&OER

*"Exact same experience with one difference - the price tag."*

MOBIUS is member of OTN since 2017

## Libguides

- Faculty, about A&OER, sources, how to create, etc.  
<https://eastcentral.libguides.com/facultyAOER> (adapted from STLCC)
- Student, list of courses for Pilots and current semester  
<https://eastcentral.libguides.com/affordableandopeneducationalresources>

Search for A&OER content when requested by faculty

Share program specific content when announced

Keep up to date on A&OER trends

Add print copies of digital required text to Instructor Course Reserve

# AOER progress

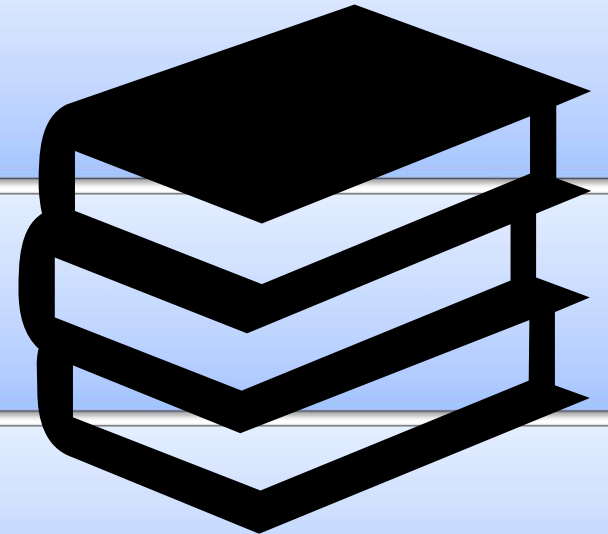
Community colleges

4-year universities

State legislature

Federal - H.R.2107 & S.1036 - Affordable College Textbook Act (introduced April 2019)

- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1036/text>



## Tips pt. 1

Collaborate with your faculty. Find a “faculty champion for OER”

- They are still the textbook selectors

Collaborate with your bookstore and copying services

- Get them in the discussion right away

Know the textbook adoption process

- (ewww!)

Not to unduly demonize commercial products—better to work with them if possible

- Some prefer the homework and other peripherals available with them



## Tips pt. 2

Share savings data and survey data broadly

Encourage faculty departments to include open source texts in their formal review process, it's ANOTHER option

- Visit their department meetings

Ground up rather than top down

First day access to textbook

Dual credit/ dual enrolled

- Savings for high school students

When you can, where you can, as much as reasonably possible

# Some Useful Links

<https://eastcentral.libguides.com/affordableandopeneducationalresources>

<https://eastcentral.libguides.com/facultyAOER>

Articles and studies of OER, particularly regarding student success, retention and efficacy, courtesy of Stephanie Hallam Education Information Librarian, SEMO: [The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics](#)

OER can effectively be used to [improve pedagogy](#) according to Educause Review Online.

[OER Courses Can Boost Engagement, New Study Says](#) , a two-year study reveals that instructors found OER materials helped them make positive changes to their teaching

[Open Education Group Review Project](#) This review provides a summary of all known empirical research on the impacts of OER adoption.

[Course Materials Adoption: A Faculty Survey and Outlook for the OER Landscape](#) This is an analysis of the responses to a survey of US faculty conducted by Choice in the spring of 2018. It offers a glimpse into the decision-making process used when selecting instructional materials for higher education courses, with specific attention devoted to the factors critical to the adoption of open educational materials (OER).



Questions?  
Comments?

*Thank you!*

*Lisa Farrell, [lisa.farrell@eastcentral.edu](mailto:lisa.farrell@eastcentral.edu),*

*Director, Library Services*