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# Open Education Week @ Gettysburg College 2018

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## **Abstract**

Textbook costs have skyrocketed, leaving many students unable to afford the latest edition. Open Educational Resources (OER) are available at no cost, so all students can have the materials they need. In addition, OER allow faculty to transform traditional assignments into student-driven digital projects. This poster aims to apprise students of the benefits of Open Education and Open Educational Resources. One section of the poster highlights some of the ways OER are being used at Gettysburg College.

## **Keywords**

Open Education, Open Educational Resources, Renewable Assignments

## **Disciplines**

Library and Information Science | Scholarly Communication

## **Comments**

This poster was on display on the Main Floor of Musselman Library during Open Education Week, March 5-9, 2018.

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## What is Open Education?

The Open Education (OE) movement works to **remove the barrier of cost in the pursuit of knowledge** so that everyone in the world has access to high-quality educational experiences and resources.

## What are Open Educational Resources?

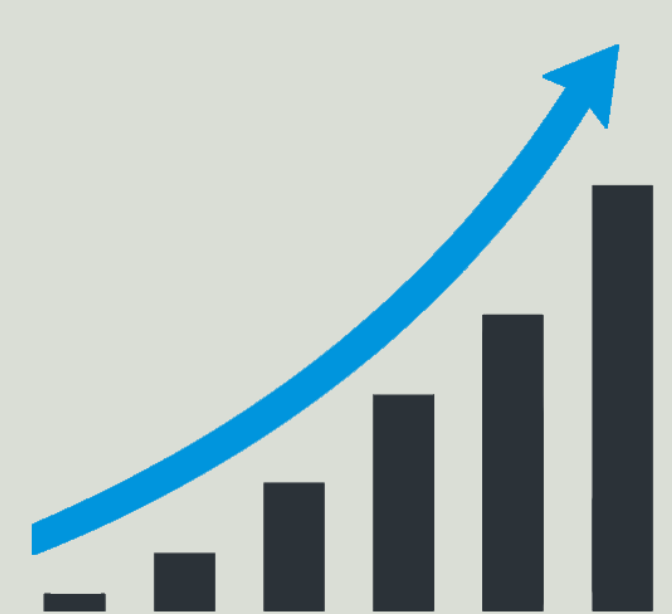
Open educational resources (OER) are **free, digital, easily shared learning materials** that can be modified and enhanced because their creators have given others permission to do so, usually via a Creative Commons license.

## What are Open Educational Practices?

Faculty can use OER to **transform traditional assignments** into student-driven digital projects from which future classes can benefit. Courses become platforms for engagement with the world outside the classroom.

**“Access to knowledge is the superb, the supreme act of truly great civilizations.” --Toni Morrison**

### Access



Textbook costs have risen **1,041%** since 1970!<sup>[1]</sup>

**65%** of students report not purchasing a textbook because of its high price.<sup>[2]</sup>



**94%** of students who did not buy the textbook were concerned it would hurt their grade.<sup>[3]</sup>

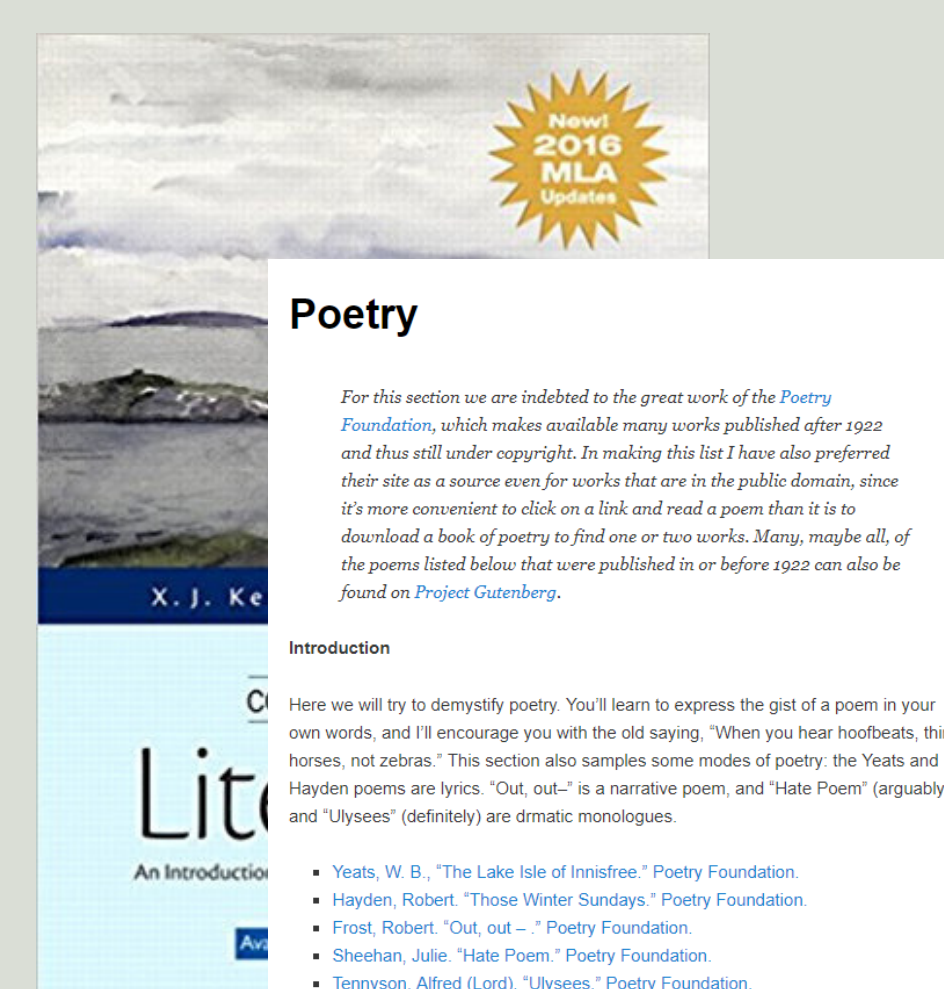
Free books and materials mean all students have the book from Day 1.



*“Using an open textbook has improved my course because it’s a better book that is more accessible and inexpensive, and is thus (I think!) used more by students.”*

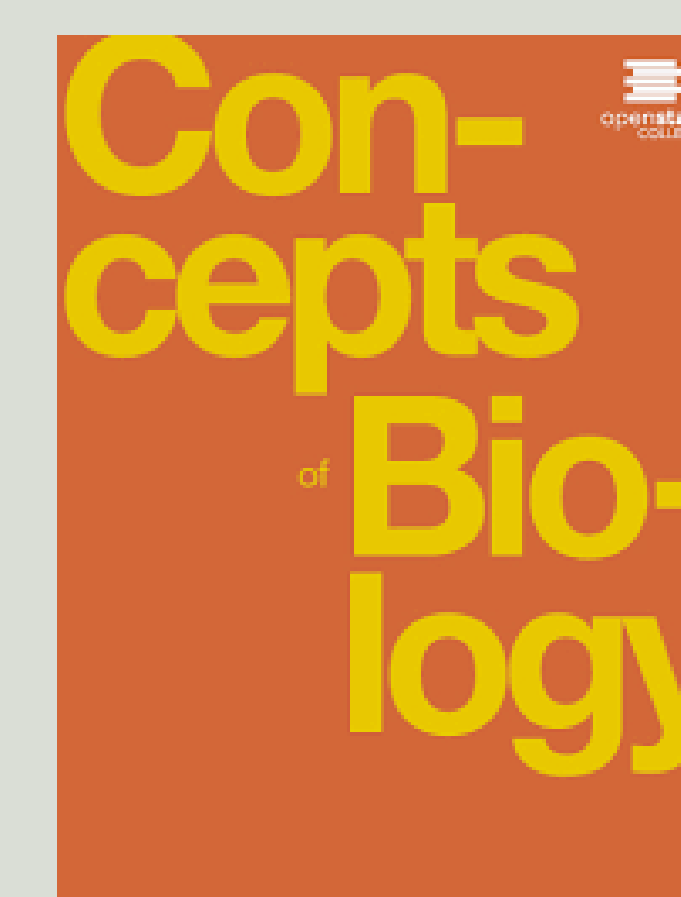
--Josef Brandauer  
Health Sciences

### OER at GBC



*“The anthology that I had been using, which was fairly expensive, came out with a new version, and I didn’t like the choices so much. I saw Janelle Wertzberger and she said ‘have you ever thought about open access?’”*

--Ian R. Clarke  
English



*“By offering an open source text, I am showing that I respect the students, and that I am looking out for their concerns.”*

--Michael Caldwell  
Biology

### Renewable Assignments

Instead of **disposable** assignments that will be tossed away at the end of the semester, OER allow for **renewable** assignments that faculty can incorporate into course materials. You might:



- **Create** a video
- **Compile** an anthology
- **Write** an introduction
- **Develop** discussion questions
- **Edit** and improve a chapter

To see how others around the world advance OE, see #OEWeek

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2016. The Economics Daily. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm>

[2] [3] U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Student PIRGs. 2014. Fixing the Broken Textbook Market. <http://www.studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/fixing-broken-textbook-market>

