

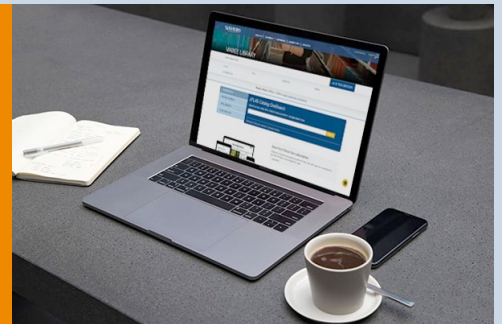
Open Educational Resources and Remote Learning at Washburn University

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly increases the need for no or low-cost course materials. Born digital, OER offer the flexibility and accessibility that students and instructors require.

The internet promised democratized access to information. Instead the price of textbooks continues rising, and equitable access to information is seemingly ever further away. Researcher Mark Perry writes that between January 1998 and June 2020 textbook prices rose an average of 179%¹. These cost increases place a financial burden on students and their families, with many choosing to forgo the purchase of course materials.

Open Educational Resources (OER) provide innovative solutions for faculty to provide students free access to reliable scholarly textbooks and other learning materials. A recent peer reviewed study by Colvard, Watson, and Park demonstrated that using OER resources increased course grades while decreasing failing and withdraw rates, especially for underserved populations².

Open Education group Doers3 on the advantages of OER for remote learning³:



- **Remote-instruction friendly.** Almost all OER is born digital, available for free online or in print at low cost. Much OER comes pre-loaded in a format that is compatible with the most commonly used learning management systems.
- **Adaptable.** In contrast to traditional textbooks, which are locked by copyright, OER can be customized by instructors as they adapt their courses to remote instruction.
- **Accessible forever.** Given the economic impact and potentially long duration of COVID-19, students are more likely than ever to take extended periods to complete their degree paths. Being able to reference materials from prerequisite courses months or years later will help them persist. Unlike commercial ebook access codes that expire at the end of the semester, students can retain OER permanently.
- **A good investment.** These are times of tight budgets for both students and institutions. OER adoption is one of the few interventions that *both saves students money and generates additional revenues for institutions*. OER has saved higher education students nearly a billion dollars in textbook costs in the US and Canada⁴. New research shows that there is also *a positive financial return on investment (ROI) for institutions that adopt OER*, as students who save money on texts take additional credits⁵.

1. <https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/chart-of-the-day-or-century-4/>

2. <https://theidealis.org/the-impact-of-open-educational-resources-on-various-student-success-metrics/>

3. https://www.doers3.org/uploads/1/3/2/2/132273765/doers3_oer_covid-19_20200609.pdf

4. OER has been estimated to have saved \$921 million for higher education students in the US and Canada as of 2018. Source: Nicole Allen "[\\$1 Billion in Savings through Open Educational Resources](#)," October 12, 2018.

5. Source: Achieving the Dream's report "[OER at Scale: The Academic and Economic Outcomes of Achieving the Dream's OER Degree Initiative](#)," page 40



Learn More

Visit: Washburn.edu/open

Workplace Group: [Open Educational Resources \(OER\) for Higher Education](#)

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