

UC Office of the President

Critical Conversations and Workshops

Title

Affordable Course Materials in Unaffordable Times

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4kg293nq>

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Publication Date

2025-10-21

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4kg293nq#supplemental>

Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are available at: <https://docs.google.com/open?id=1ofEdFif-vV2cLuAeLFZ2d6O7qq-PLfjktXzHkTzKXpo>

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Affordable Course Materials in Unaffordable Times

A 2025 UC Libraries Forum Critical Conversation

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Challenges have always surrounded OERs, today we are faced with even more challenges as we navigate a landscape of budget cuts, lack of grant opportunities, and attacks on DEIA. Amid this negative climate we are more than ever in a space to bring about something positive for our students in the UC system.

At UC Irvine, we recently completed a faculty incentive initiative to move course materials to open or library-licensed materials. We awarded three grants in as many years. However, in exploring this topic further we were able to see the vast work that the faculty are doing behind the scenes. More than half of the bookstore's grid each quarter for the last fiscal year are courses with no required textbooks, and those noting their course uses open educational resources (OER) is slowly increasing.

We are interested in hearing how other UC campuses approach affordability efforts and library-licensed course materials

Q1

How does your campus
prioritize affordable
course materials?

Initiatives, programs, across campus/divisional collaboration

Q2

Do the course reserve notes in your catalog expire each term, or are they visible for students to view yearlong, aiding student decision-making when registering for courses?

Q3

Do you detail low-cost courses
outside of UC Library Search,
and if so, how?

Q4

How do you work with the Learning Center at your campus to encourage OER or library licensed material for new or UC wide courses?

Q5

Are libraries informed when faculty depend on journals or eBooks for course materials?

How might we establish processes to ensure transparency, so these resources are known as high value, despite budget cuts?

Q6

How are libraries anticipating changes to affordability efforts within the climate of budget cuts?

Q7

How does your campus engage with interested stakeholder?
(teaching faculty, liaison librarians, collection strategists, students, and library administrators)

Q8

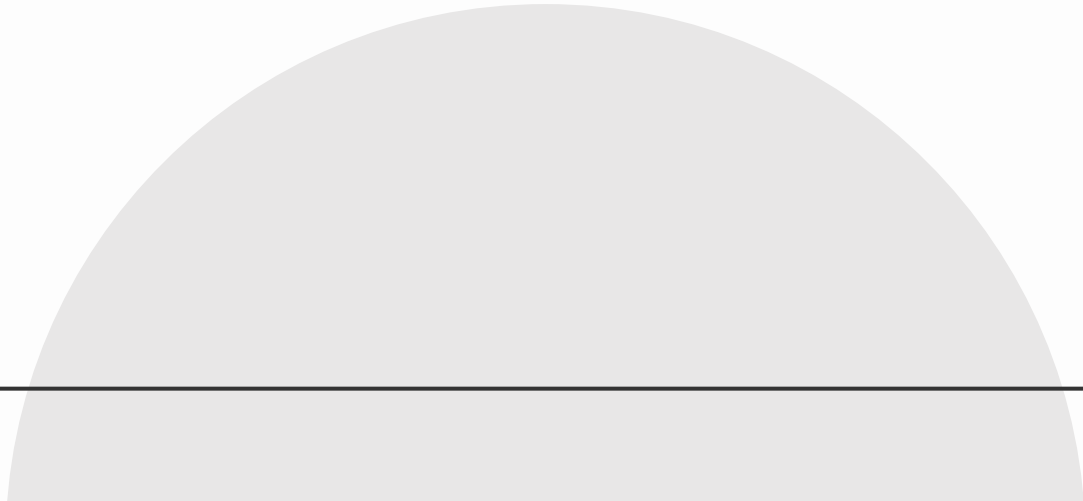
Have you seen students coming in from California Community Colleges or the CSU's with different expectations on textbook affordability?



Questions for the Room

Any questions to pose to our Zoom Room for feedback

Critical Conversation



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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LibGuides: <https://guides.lib.uci.edu/oer>

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