



COLTT CONFERENCE



University of Colorado
Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

University of Colorado Boulder
August 9-10, 2017

Tired of Textbooks

A Workshop



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Our Plan for Today

Let's Introduce Ourselves

Why Are We Here?

Let's Talk About Stuff

Teaching, Textbooks, & Alternatives

Let's Do Something

Try Replacing Some Textbooks

Why do a couple of
librarians care about
textbooks?

Kevin's job title is "Foundational Experiences Librarian." That means focusing on the people who are using the library for the first time.

Imagine you're a brand new student--
it's your first day on campus.

In your first class, you learn the
textbook *isn't provided*, and you're
expected to get your own copy.

Where would a new student go on campus if they needed to find a copy of a book?

A photograph of the Auraria Library building. The building's facade is a vibrant red color with a perforated metal texture. Large, white, three-dimensional block letters spell out "AURARIA LIBRARY" across the front. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The building's structure includes a prominent overhang with a glass railing.

AURARIA LIBRARY

(Jane Hood took this photo. #ThanksJane)

Being told “sorry, the library doesn’t have your textbook--you need to go spend \$500 at the bookstore,” is a pretty lousy foundational experience.

Ellen's job title is "Collection Development Program Lead." That means having oversight of what our library does and does not purchase.

We get lots of requests for textbooks,
but we don't have the resources to
purchase these materials, especially
when they go out-of-date so quickly.

This means we're not acquiring something in high demand, while at the same time we have access to learning materials that aren't being used as much as they could be.

For both of us the present model of faculty assigning textbooks, and having students purchase them, leaves something to be desired.

Introductions

Now you all know why we're here...

Why are you here?

Why are you tired of textbooks?

Think, Pair, Share

Forget about textbooks for a moment.

When you teach (or support teaching), what are you hoping to accomplish? What are your goals?

What do we have in
common?

Did any trends appear in
our conversations?

Think, Pair, Share

Now let's return to textbooks. When you think about a “typical” college textbook, what can it accomplish?

What shared perceptions
do we have of textbooks?
Did any trends appear in
our conversations?

Sometimes textbooks can
help us meet our goals.
Sometimes they can't.

Let's talk about
textbook alternatives...

Open Educational Resources

Library Resources

Freely Available Online Content

What else could
replace a textbook?

Let's try it...

POLI 2001- Intro to PoliSci

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students identify major movements in historical and contemporary American politics.
- Students examine political ideologies to analyze recent government policies.

In Small Groups

Review the Learning Outcomes for each course. Discuss possible textbook alternatives, then search online to see what you can find.

How did it go? Were you able to locate materials that supported the course learning outcomes?

Wrapping Up

Finding quality alternatives to textbooks can be daunting. Involve your colleagues! This is more about pedagogy than technology.

Reflection

Think about one thing you'll do differently because of what you learned today, then enter your responses at:

<http://tinyurl.com/TOTCOLTT>



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