



Dear Colleagues:

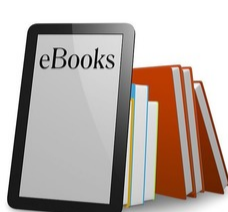
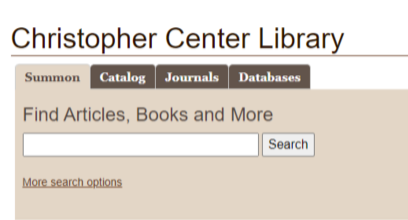
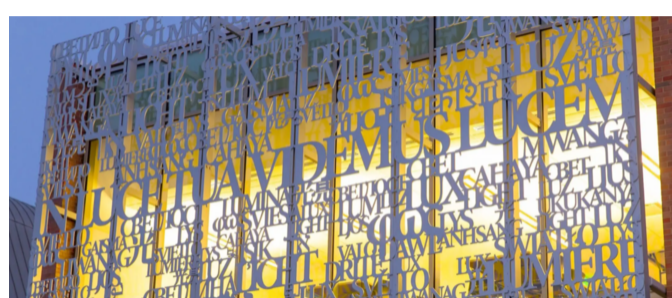
Many of our students are struggling to control expenses, especially when it comes to textbooks. In some cases, this may mean they cannot purchase a book or must take fewer classes. What can we do to help?



Electronic textbooks (E-texts) and Open Educational Resources (OERs) can help minimize costs and increase access to learning materials. E-Texts provide a lower-cost alternative to traditional texts, and OERs provide free materials. While these alternatives may not be the best solution for every discipline or course, they are worth exploring for the benefit of our students.

This issue explores both E-texts and OERs and shows how they can be incorporated into Blackboard and Simple Syllabus. Find out who is using them in their courses to help students save money on textbooks and materials.

From The Center for Innovation in Teaching, Assessment, and Learning ([CITAL](#))



The "Middle Ground" of E-Text

While Cindy will discuss examples of OERs later in this issue, I wanted to focus on another low-cost alternative that can help students save money. Most publishers now offer E-text versions of their traditional textbooks, often with valuable electronic engagement materials. In many cases, this can reduce the cost of materials by 50 percent. Imagine saving each student up to \$200 per semester. Finally, even though the books are electronic, print copies (in binder form) are often available upon request at a substantially reduced price, as well as print-on-demand options. There is no one solution, but E-Texts could be a middle-of-the-road approach for faculty hesitant or unable to adopt OERs. Below are just a few resources on the continuing rise in the prices of traditional textbooks and e-text possibilities.

- [Data on Cost of Attendance](#) (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- [Exploring the Use of E-Textbooks in Higher Education](#) (EDUCAUSE)
- [Student Engagement with E-Texts](#) (EDUCAUSE)
- [How to Buy E-Textbooks 101](#) (PCMag)

Ed Finn, Director of Instructional Technology, Design & Assessment

Saving Your Students Money By Using OERs



Jon Bull decided to make using open educational resources (OERs) a priority for his work at VU in order to help with student retention. That is why Jon instituted the [OER Development Awards](#). This program, now in its sixth year, awards faculty from \$500-\$2,000 to move their class from textbook to OER. Read on to learn more about OERs and this VU program. Two OER Award recipients, Sara Gundersen (Economics) and Mandy Brobst-Renaud (Theology), talk about the positive impact that throwing away the textbook has had on their students and themselves.

Read the Full Article Here: [Saving Your Students Money](#)

Cynthia Rutz, Director of Faculty Development

Music Professor uses OER Textbook & Materials

Dr. Navid Barghazan, Visiting Assistant Professor, is helping his music students keep costs down by using OERs, which he has embedded in his [Blackboard](#) course MUS-101 Introduction to Music and the associated [Simple Syllabus](#).

He is a participant in the [Visiting Faculty Fellows Program](#). In conjunction with The Center for Innovation in Teaching, Assessment, and Learning ([CITAL](#)), he is designing this 3-credit course to be offered online asynchronously this summer.

If you would like to learn more about how [CITAL](#) can assist you with course design, please contact helpdesk@valpo.edu.

Gina Rue, Instructional Designer/Blackboard & Simple Syllabus Administrator

Textbook(s), Other Readings, and Materials

Visible Public



Title: Resonances
ISBN: 9781940771311
Authors: Esther M. Morgan-Ellis
Publication Date: 2020-06-02
Additional Information
This is an open-source textbook. You can download it for free as a PDF file via this link: <https://ung.edu/university-press/books/resonances-engaging-music.php>
Required or Recommended: Required

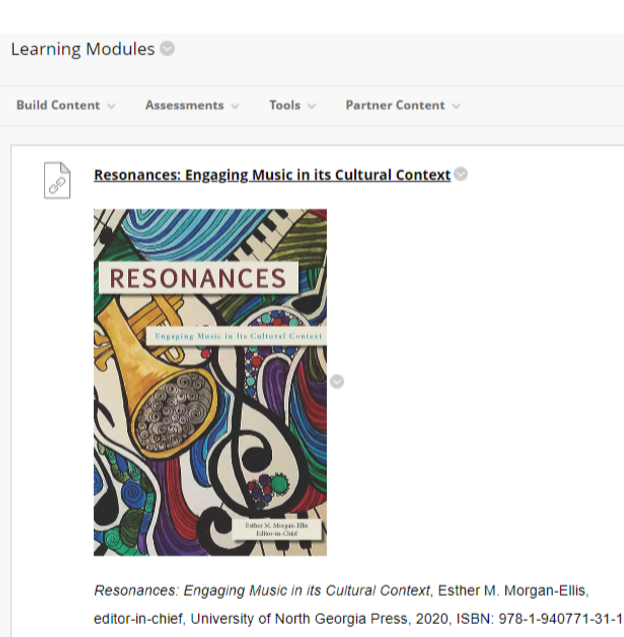
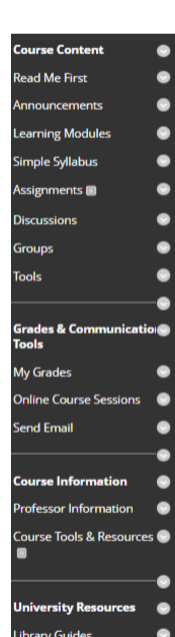
Click this image for "how-to" in Simple Syllabus



Title: Musical Examples (Sound Files)

Additional Information
Audio and Video examples are available on the Blackboard site via YouTube, or other accessible weblinks.
Required or Recommended: Required

Click this image for "how-to" in Blackboard



[Click](#) this image to watch a webinar on interactive textbooks
FL-IDN (Florida – Instructional Design Network)
Speaker: Laurie Naïve, Instructional Designer

Submit a Helpdesk Ticket Request for Assistance

Visit the CITAL website, Your One-Stop-Shop for Faculty Resources