

## Implementing Affordable Educational Resources (AER) and Open Educational Resources (OER)

### Implications of Act 125 for textbook adoption

Act 125/SB117 (<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1143722>) is a bipartisan bill signed into law in June 2019, requiring transparency in textbook pricing for students and creating an incentive model for the wide scale adoption of low and no-cost course materials.

As a result of Act 125/SB117, Louisiana's postsecondary public colleges and universities are required to "use a conspicuous symbol, logo, or other distinguishing feature to highlight each course included in its course schedule that exclusively utilizes AER or OER course materials."

### Definitions of OER and AER course designations

Open Educational Resources (OER) and Affordable Educational Resources (AER) are unique designations defined as:

**OER:** *A resource that is in the public domain or has been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use, adaptation, and redistribution of the resource by any person.*

- All required curricular resources, including textbooks and other instructional materials such as workbooks, lab manuals, and online homework platforms must be openly licensed.
- Students will have zero costs for course materials.

**AER:** *A single or collection of required resource(s) offered at no or low cost to students at a pre-sales tax cost not to exceed an amount equal to four times the federal minimum wage (i.e., no more than \$29 with a \$7.25 federal minimum wage).*

- The total cost of all required textbooks and other required instructional materials will remain affordable as defined in Act 125.
- Library ebooks that are free to students but not open access are included in this designation.

## How to access LSU Libraries for OER and AER support

LSU Libraries offers numerous resources and services to help you modify your courses to make them AER/OER compliant. We offer:

- More than 400,000 AER book options for faculty to adopt for courses: [www.lib.lsu.edu/ebooks/faculty](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/ebooks/faculty);
- An online guide with information about the mandate and the support: [guides.lib.lsu.edu/c.php?g=1081524](http://guides.lib.lsu.edu/c.php?g=1081524);
- Individualized consultation services provided by subject librarians for every discipline to help faculty navigate:
  - The resources available to identify and adopt high quality OER/AER course material for each discipline;
  - Assistance obtaining this material and making it available;
- Consultation about copyright considerations;
- An institutional repository for hosting books and articles by LSU faculty;
- Program leadership from STEM librarian David Dunaway, including ongoing environmental scan/best practice identification, LOUIS and LSU Online liaison duties, and presentations.

### What do you like most about e-textbooks offered through LSU Libraries?

*The convenience. Students always tell me at the beginning of the semester “I don’t have my book yet.” Rather than slow down the class, I just tell them to get the electronic copy right away.*

Richard Moscatello  
LSU Instructor of Mathematics

### Contact

Contact your [subject librarian](#) or

David Dunaway  
225-578-4680  
[ddunaw1@lsu.edu](mailto:ddunaw1@lsu.edu)

Or visit [www.lib.lsu.edu](http://www.lib.lsu.edu)