

OER TALKING POINTS

The Michigan library community recommends that the Michigan Legislature support Open Education Resources (OER).

While Michigan is ahead of many other states in their support of open education, state supported efforts have largely focused on K-12 education. The adoption and use of quality OER also impacts students at colleges and universities across the state, as well as the work of the academic libraries on those campuses.

- The use of OER is an extension of broader open access efforts to provide equitable access to resources through libraries.
- The use of OER in college and university courses lessens the burden of seeking copyright permissions for materials used in course reserves for academic libraries and university faculty.
- The availability of quality OER impacts the affordability and accessibility of higher education and the success of students.
 - Textbooks costs have [more than doubled in the last fifteen years](#), and surveys find that up to 2/3s of college students never buy the materials required for their courses.
 - Expensive textbooks and required course materials can also extend time to graduation for students. A [survey sponsored by Florida Virtual University](#) in 2018 found that 42% of students took fewer courses and 22% dropped a course due to high textbook costs.
- OER provide more context and adaptability for local learning needs, a critical flexibility that traditional textbooks do not provide.

The Michigan library community supports state assistance that provides support for the implementation of programs or services which reduce the cost of required educational materials for colleges and universities. OER are important because they widen access to learning opportunities and help make obtaining a college degree more accessible for all.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Dear Representative or Senator [Last Name],

I am writing to ask that you support libraries across the state of Michigan, particularly those at colleges and universities engaged in the creation of open education resources (OER).

While Michigan is ahead of many other states in their support of open education, state supported efforts have largely focused on K-12 education. The adoption and use of quality OER also impacts students at colleges and universities across the state, as well as the work of the academic libraries on those campuses.

- The use of OER is an extension of broader open access efforts to provide equitable access to resources through libraries.
- OER provide more context and adaptability for local learning needs, a critical flexibility that traditional textbooks do not provide.
- The use of OER in college and university courses lessens the burden of seeking and securing copyright permissions for materials used in course reserve services for academic libraries and university faculty.
- The availability of quality OER impacts the affordability and accessibility of higher education and the success of students.
 - Textbook costs have [more than doubled in the last fifteen years](#), and surveys find that up to two-thirds of college students never buy the materials required for their courses.
 - Expensive textbooks and required course materials can also extend time to graduation for students. A [survey sponsored by Florida Virtual University](#) in 2018 found that 42% of students took fewer courses and 22% dropped a course due to high textbook costs.

I ask that the legislature work toward creating and supporting specific funding and initiatives that provide support for the implementation of programs or services which support the local creation of open education resources and reduce the cost of required educational materials for colleges and universities in the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your organization]

[Your phone]

[Your email]

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Michiganders deserve equitable access to learning opportunities! The use of open education resources in colleges and universities impacts the success of students and makes obtaining a college degree more accessible for all. #MIAcademicLibraries #MILibrariesDay

