The Link

Rentschler Library Faculty Newsletter. Spring 2020

engage| explore | inform| innovate | seek |discover| inspire | preserve | create | support | communicate| imagine |transform

How the Libraries Can Save Students Money (with a Little Help from You!)

For people who were unable to join John Burke and Krista McDonald at the session they presented at this year's Recharge, we are recapping the content in this issue of The Link. John and Krista discussed some of the ways that the Regional Libraries can help students reduce the costs of attending classes. Some of these tactics would see an increase in use with some additional promotion by faculty. Others will work best with active faculty collaboration.

Streaming Video Options

Due to copyright law, the University Libraries can no longer legally convert our locally owned DVDs into a streaming format in most cases. As a result, students are required to access copies of course films on their own in some cases. An easy way for them to do that is to rent the film from an online service like Amazon or Netflix, but there is a cost associated with that. The library offers several free solutions, however.

1. If we own a copy of the DVD, we will put it on reserve in the library. Students can watch the film in the library using our PCs.
2. We can help students request a copy of the DVD through OhioLINK or a local public library to view at home.
3. Some required films are available on Hoopla, a streaming video service accessible through many Ohio public libraries. Information about obtaining a public library card and accessing Hoopla is available here: https://bit.ly/31YKs5o. This page also includes information about several subscription streaming services with discounted pricing for students and lengthy free trials (e.g., 3-6 months). Some of the services that are free or offer student discounts are pictured below.

Ask Us About . . .

Library Instruction
- Research Assignments
- Library instruction for your course
- Embedded Librarian in Canvas
- Information Literacy Skills
- Search Strategies
- InfoLit Modules for Canvas

Course Reserves
- Library or Personal Copy
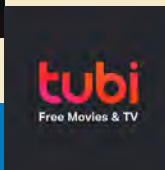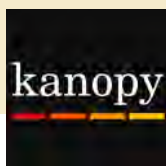
Research Resources
- Extended Borrowing Times
- Access to Databases
- Interlibrary Loan Services

Public Equipment
- Color Printer & Copier
- Scanner
- Microform Machine
- Computers with extensive software

Librarian Liaisons
- Support Subject Areas
- Guides & Bibliographies

Textbooks on Reserve (TOR)

Our TOR collection has been reducing the impact of textbook costs on students since 2006. MUR libraries include texts in the program based on several factors. We target Global Miami Plan courses with high enrollment and take textbook cost into consideration as well. While we do not automatically purchase texts for most courses, we welcome requests from students and faculty, especially when there is a problem with access to the book, such as a shortage at the bookstore. Please be sure to contact the library to let us know about these problems so that we can assist you and your students. We also accept donations of your personal copies of the books, and will return them to you at the end of the semester. The TOR program is especially helpful in the following scenarios:

- For students who have purchased a textbook from a private seller and have not received their copy prior to the start of classes.
- For students who do not have the funds to purchase all of their texts at the start of classes.
- For students who want to work on assignments between classes but don't want to carry all of their books around campus.
- For students who have to make choices between buying a textbook and eating, or paying their utility bills, or putting gas in their cars, or paying for prescriptions.

Open Educational Resources (OERs)

According to UNESCO, "Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions." (https://bit.ly/39yL04j) Many OERs have been peer reviewed as well. These materials can replace the, often expensive, textbooks that would normally be purchased at the bookstore. These textbook expenses can negatively affect student success in a variety of ways as evidenced in this brief video and the chart below. The MUR libraries can work with instructors to select OERs for your courses to reduce textbook expenses for students. This can be through using an Open Textbook, an entire Open Course, or through use of a variety of library resources that meet the instructional needs of the professor. To learn more, visit: https://libguides.lib.miamioh.edu/textbookalternatives/home
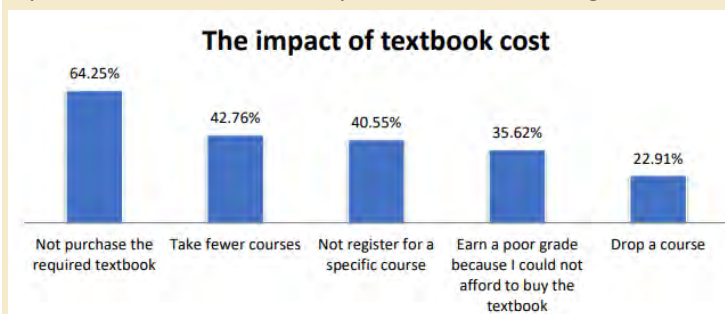

Image from Florida Virtual Campus. *2018 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey: Results and Findings. 8 March 2019, p.14.*

Lending Technology

The MUR libraries lend a variety of equipment to meet ongoing and assignment-related needs. These help students fill in gaps with personal items and avoid costs for specialty items. From laptops to video cameras, and microphones to light kits, we have a little bit of everything. To see a complete list of the items available at each campus, along with their loan periods, click: Hamilton or Middletown. Please help us spread the word about this service and remind students that they are **borrowing** these items, not renting them.