

Course Materials Available through Northwestern Libraries

Textbooks: The Libraries may be able to purchase an e-book version of your assigned textbook for your students to access via NUsearch. If the text is not available as an e-book, a subject librarian can work with you to find alternative digital materials. Contact your librarian or email library@northwestern.edu to inquire about your assigned course materials.

It is important to note that the following major publishers do not provide institutional licenses to e-books and thus cannot be purchased for students to access via the Libraries:

- Pearson
- Cengage
- Houghton
- McGraw-Hill
- Oxford University Press (textbook division)

Open Educational Resources: Open Educational Resources (OER) are free teaching materials (such as textbooks, presentations, and test banks) that are intended to be widely distributed and modified to fit the needs of instructors. The Libraries can help you find OER within your discipline, and can work with you to adapt it for your course. To begin exploring OER, start with the following resources:

- [Open Textbook Library](#): managed by the Open Education Consortium (of which Northwestern is a member), the Open Textbook Library is a collection of hundreds of faculty-reviewed textbooks that have been used in at least two higher education institutions.
- [OASIS](#): An OER search tool with full textbooks, modules, homework sets, A/V materials and more
- [How to Adopt an Open Textbook](#): Guide created by Northwestern librarians

Alternative course packs: A recent survey of Northwestern students found that 20% did not purchase their class course pack because of the cost. Instead of assigning a course pack, first check to see if the readings are available at the library. Use NUsearch to look for links to articles, or contact your librarian and we will check for you. When a course reading is available via a library database, link to the article rather than uploading a PDF to Canvas. This ensures the journal article is being accessed lawfully. It also helps to keep accurate usage metrics, which impacts purchasing and collection decisions.

Book chapters: The Libraries can digitize book chapters and articles from physical journals or newspapers within our collections and make them available in your Canvas course. Place your request via the Course Reserve link in Canvas. Please note: library staff will scan and make available no more than 15% of any single book, or no more than a single article from a periodical.

Streaming audio and video: The Libraries provides streamed audio and video services from material in our collection for University courses. Place your requests via the Course Reserve link in Canvas. Email e-reserve@northwestern.edu or call 847-491- 7681 with any questions related to course reserves.

Campus support: The Libraries are sponsoring members of the [Affordable Instructional Resources \(AIR\)](#) group, which is a campus-wide network of faculty and staff working to reduce course material cost in order to create more inclusive and equitable learning environments. Contact AIR to learn more about our focus areas and additional course affordability programs at Northwestern: air@northwestern.edu.