

Course Marking: Making OER and Student Cost Savings Transparent

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Relevant Definitions

Open Educational Resources (OER): "educational materials made freely and legally available on the Internet for anyone to reuse, revise, remix and redistribute" (Wickline, 2013).

- Openly-licensed textbooks such as from OpenStax
- Other learning materials that are openly-licensed, typically using Creative Commons' licenses

Affordable Course Content: "Affordable is shorthand for courses that exclusively use no-cost (\$0) and low-cost (less than \$45) resources as required course materials" (University of Kansas, n.d.).

- Library-licensed materials
- Links to articles/resources
- Low-cost learning materials (e.g. <\$40)

Course Marking: "Marking course sections that use no-cost (\$0 cost to the student) and low-cost (less than \$50 in total) resources as required texts is a growing part of the college and university affordability landscape. "Course Marking" is commonly done by adding some type of notation to a course section in the course registration system so that students can readily see that notation when making course selection decisions" (Penn State, n.d.).

Penn State. (n.d.). *Making courses affordable at Penn State*. <https://sites.psu.edu/coursemarkings/>

University of Kansas. (n.d.). *Marking affordable courses at KU*. <https://marking.ku.edu/>

Wickline, H. (2013, November 26). Open educational resources: Breaking the lockbox on education. *Hewlett Foundation*. <https://hewlett.org/open-educational-resources-breaking-the-lockbox-on-education/>

Course Marking: Advantages & Challenges

Advantage of Course Marking

- Course Material Cost Transparency at Registration
- Facilitates Researching & Measuring Impact
- Complying with Legislative Mandates

Challenges to Course Marking

- What Counts as Affordable Course Content
 - Inclusive Access?
 - Set cost
- Support
 - Faculty
 - Institutional
- No Legislative Mandate
- Bookstore
- Accuracy of Information
- Workflow

Legislatively Mandated Examples

Oregon - requires that each public college and university designate no-cost and low-cost courses in the schedule.

California - requires that the California Community Colleges and the California State University “mark” course sections that have no associated textbook costs.

Washington - requires all community & technical colleges to inform students at the time of registration which courses use OER and low-cost materials

Texas - requires that institutions of higher education provide searchable information to students about OER-only courses.


Colorado - requires that students are informed, prior to course registration, which courses and sections use open educational resources (OER) or low-cost materials (defined as totaling less than \$20 per course).

Virginia – requires courses using only OER will be labeled as such in the institution's course registration system.

Louisiana – requires 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.

Course Marking Examples

ADVANCED SEARCH

Any Course Material Cost 

Any Course Material Cost

OER (Open Educational Resources)

Low Cost (<\$20)


No Cost (\$0)


No Cost, Low Cost, or OER


University of Colorado

Select at least 2 search criteria. Select Search to view your search results.

Subject

Course Career 

Course Attribute 

ZERO Textbook Cost 

City University of New York (CUNY)

Term: Spring 2024

Subject: All Subjects


Location:

- Main Campus
- Amherst Center
- Appomattox Center
- Bedford Center
- Campbell Co Tech Center
- Off Campus
- Dual Enrollment @ High Schools

Session:

- Regular
- Dynamic
- First 8-weeks
- Second 8-weeks
- Twelve week
- Fourteen week

Type:

- Classroom
- Web-based
- Hybrid
- 'Live' Online
- Evening Classes
- Low-cost textbook* 

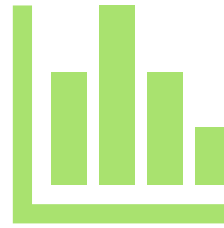
Central Virginia Community College

Course Marking

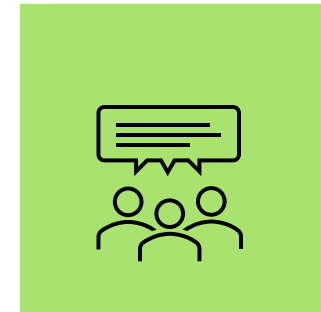
Experiences at Delaware County Community College



Build OER course inventory with voluntary information from faculty



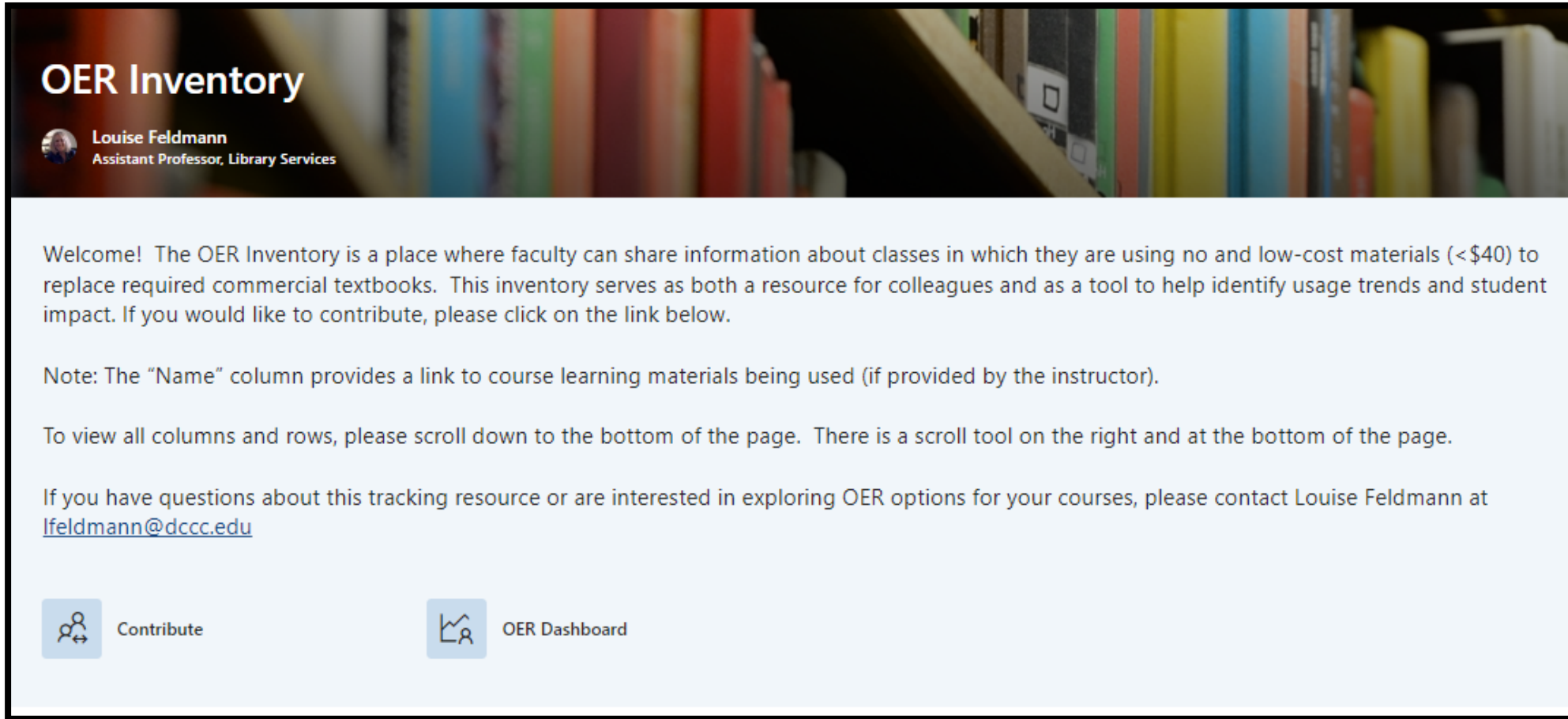
Create dashboard from inventory showing student impact




More interest in OER. How to advertise OER courses to students?

DCCC Inventory and Dashboard

Precursor to Course Marking



OER Inventory



 Louise Feldmann
Assistant Professor, Library Services

Welcome! The OER Inventory is a place where faculty can share information about classes in which they are using no and low-cost materials (<\$40) to replace required commercial textbooks. This inventory serves as both a resource for colleagues and as a tool to help identify usage trends and student impact. If you would like to contribute, please click on the link below.







Note: The "Name" column provides a link to course learning materials being used (if provided by the instructor).

To view all columns and rows, please scroll down to the bottom of the page. There is a scroll tool on the right and at the bottom of the page.

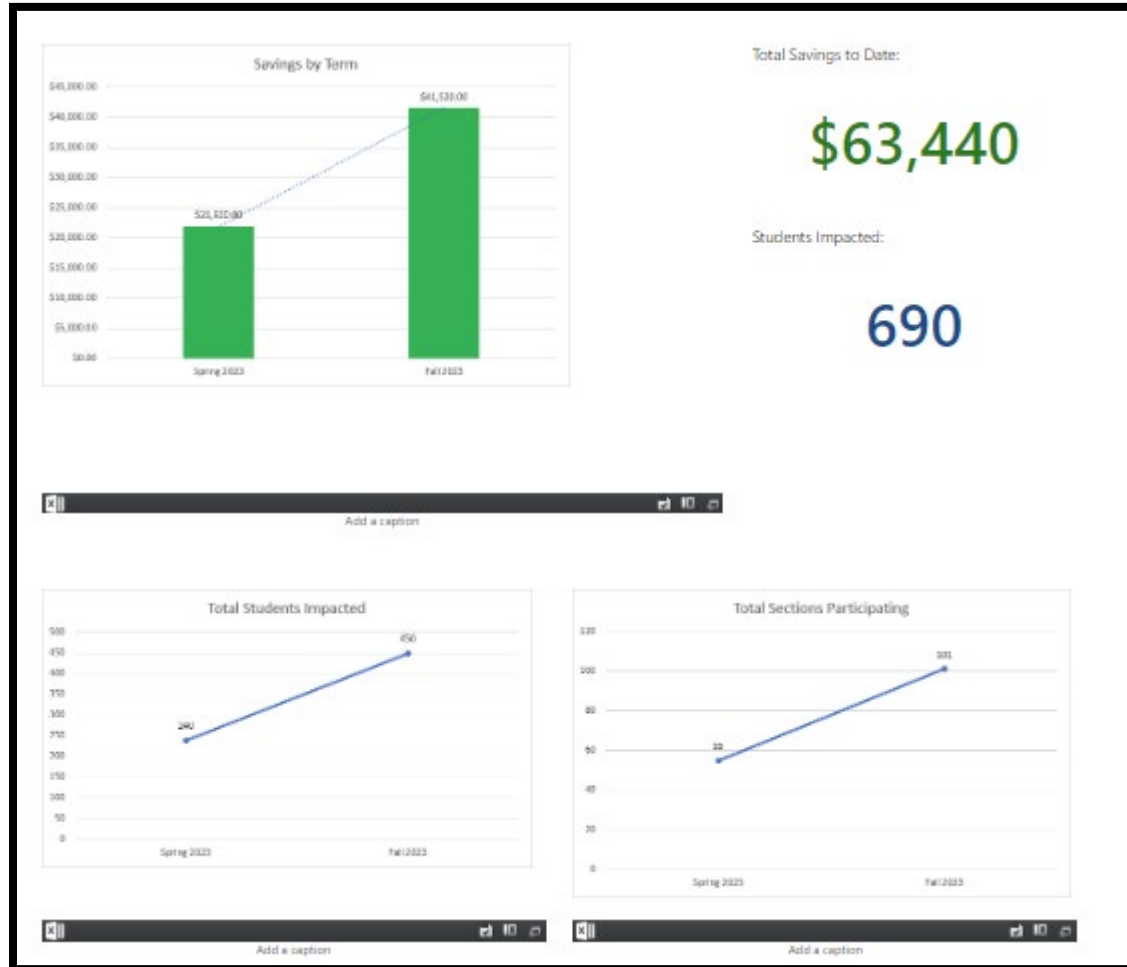
If you have questions about this tracking resource or are interested in exploring OER options for your courses, please contact Louise Feldmann at lfeldmann@dccc.edu

 Contribute  OER Dashboard

DCCC OER Course Inventory

OER Inventory							
Division	Course	Resource Type		Name	Description	Term Began	
BCSS-Business & Finance (1)							
	BUS 230 Principles of Mar	OER		Principles of Marketing - OpenSta...	OER textbook available through OpenStax	SU1/23	
BCSS-Social Sciences (5)							
	PSY 140 General Psycholo	OER		Psychology 2e - OpenStax.url	OER textbook available through OpenStax	FA/19	
	PSY 204 Addiction, Drugs,	Low-cost		PSY204_Nelson_Course Materials...		SP/23	
	HIS 110 American History	OER		US History - OpenStax.url	OER textbook available through OpenStax. Print available for \$52	FA/18	
	HIS 120 American History	OER		US History (Part 2) - OpenStax.url		FA/18	
	PSY 220 Abnormal Psycho	OER		Fundamentals of Psychology Diso...	OER textbook available in PressBooks	FA/23	

DCCC Student Impact Dashboard



Course Marking

DCCC Mock-up

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `dev-xe-web-a.dccc.edu/StudentRegistrationSsb/ssb/classSearch/classSearch`. The browser tabs include "Elucian Corp - Sign...", "delaGATE - Delawar...", "Customer Center H...", "DCCC tickets assign...", "DCCC tickets create...", and "BAT not assigned". The page navigation shows "Student" > "Registration" > "Select a Term" > "Browse Classes". The main heading is "Browse Classes". Below it, the section is titled "Enter Your Search Criteria" with a sub-label "Term: Spring 2024". The search criteria fields are: "Part Of Term", "Subject", "Course Number", "Schedule Type", "Campus", and "Attribute". The "Open Sections Only" dropdown menu is open, showing two options: "Low Cost Course Materials" (highlighted in green) and "No Cost Course Materials".

Course Marking

DCCC Mock-up

Student • Registration • Select a Term • Browse Classes

Browse Classes

Search Results — 2 Classes
Term: Spring 2024 Attribute: No Cost Course Materials

Title	Attribute	Subject Description	Course Num	Section
Financial Accounting	No Cost Course Materials	(ACC) Accoun...	111	0
Mathematics Review	No Cost Course Materials	(MAT) Mathe...	050	03I

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Student • Registration • Select a Term • Browse Classes

Browse Classes

Search Results — 2 Classes
Term: Spring 2024 Attribute: Low Cost Course Materials

Title	Attribute	Subject Description	Course Num	Section
General Biology I	Low Cost Course Materials	(BIO) Biology	110	001
Contemporary Moral Problems	Low Cost Course Materials	(PHI) Philosophy	110	01

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Navigating Institutions' Bureaucracy

- College Advisory System
- Non-Curriculum Proposal
- Committee Feedback

"The committee has concerns that the OER/low-cost marking system may incentivize faculty members to adopt OER content before fully vetting it in order to attract students to their courses/sections to make load with a desirable teaching schedule."

"At this point, OERs may not provide sufficient ancillaries at the level that traditional texts do."

"The definition of "low cost" is unclear. For example, a "low-cost" textbook in the health sciences may cost twice as much as a "low-cost" textbook in the humanities."

Questions



For more information on course marking:

Hare, S., Krischner, J., & Reed, M. (Eds.). (2020). *Marking open and affordable courses: Best practices and case studies*. Mavs Open Press. <https://uta.pressbooks.pub/markinopenandaffordablecourses/>

Thank you!

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