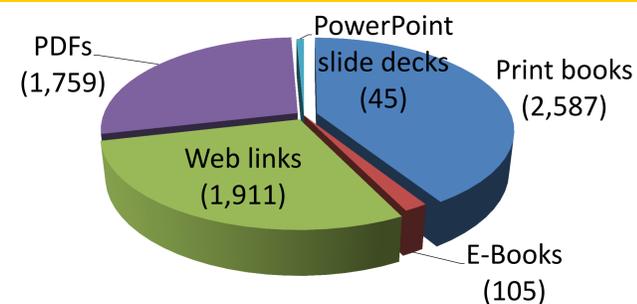


# Open Access and Course Reserves

## What is on Course Reserve?<sup>1</sup>



## The High Cost of Course Reserves

Online access to journals are a recurring cost. For the 2012 fiscal year, the George A. Smathers Libraries have spent **\$6.5 million** on e-resources—this includes one time purchase costs for e-books, recurring subscription costs for electronic journals, as well as access or platform fees to access items through certain web platforms.<sup>2</sup>

Print books, DVDs, VHS, and even e-books are a one time investment—after purchase, libraries can lend these items at no further cost.

Scanned articles from print publications and excerpts from books may fall under fair use, or the Libraries may be required to purchase permissions to post an electronic item.

For the 2012 fiscal year, the Course Reserves unit has already spent approximately **\$8,000** purchasing books and copyright permissions to post electronic copies of book chapters and articles on reserve for the Fall 2012 semester alone.

In the 2011 fiscal year, the Course Reserves unit spent over \$20,000 purchasing books and copyright permissions for course reserves.

## What about fair use?

US copyright law Section 107 allows for fair use of educational materials at no extra cost.

The limits of fair use were tested in the Georgia State case recently, and the result for libraries seems to be that “fair-use e-reserves codes that treat under 10% as presumptively okay, and amounts over 10% but less than some ill-defined maximum as presumptively okay if it has been confirmed that a license to make digital copies of excerpts from the book is not available.”<sup>3</sup>

When use does not meet fair use requirements, permissions can be purchased through the Copyright Clearance Center. Permissions costs vary from publisher to publisher.

## Open Access Alternatives

### Open Access Textbooks

#### Alternative to: print textbooks, expensive e-textbooks

Rather than assigning expensive textbooks which will quickly go out of date, some universities are now working to promote digital, open access textbook alternatives.

- The Open Access Textbooks Grant Project, a FIPSE grant project run by Florida Virtual Campus developed a model for sustainable discovery, production, and dissemination of open textbooks.<sup>4</sup>
- The University of South Florida Textbook Affordability project site provides a list of open access educational text resources, including Wikiversity, Wikibooks, and the MIT Open Courseware Initiative.<sup>5</sup>
  - Wikiversity is a forum for learning which encourages teachers to join in creating “open education resources and collaborative learning communities.”<sup>6</sup>
  - Wikibooks is an “open content textbooks collection that anyone can edit”; books are divided into subject categories, and then into levels of completion, ranging from “Completed” to “Freshly started”<sup>7</sup>
  - MIT Open Courseware Initiative is a publication of MIT course materials including lecture notes, exams, and even some online textbooks.<sup>8</sup>
- The University of Minnesota maintains an open textbook catalog, which allows users from any institution to browse and “adopt” open access textbooks.<sup>9</sup>
- Temple University gave 11 faculty \$1,000 each to create an e-textbook, which was then made available at no cost to students.<sup>10</sup>

### Open Access Journals

#### Alternative to: print or subscription only journals

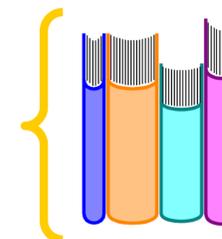
As the costs of journal subscriptions rise, library budgets remain flat. Selecting readings from open access journals ensures that the material can be accessed at no additional cost to students or the Libraries.

### Institutional Repository

#### Alternative to: slide decks, unpublished works, archive of instructor published works

Copyright law requires that permissions must be granted for all type of publications, including things like slide decks or student-created work. For the Libraries, this currently means that if someone other than the original content creator is posting the item through course reserves, each semester a permissions form must be signed. This can be tricky, especially as former students can be more difficult to contact after several years. Instead, instructors could consider asking the content creator to submit their work to the IR. This removes the task of getting a permissions form signed each semester, and creates a permanent, accessible home for the work.

The IR is also a home for articles when authors retain their right to archive their work in the IR. Even if the entire journal is not accessible, access to specific articles can sometimes be found through the UF IR or other institutional repositories.<sup>11</sup>



*In the 2011 fiscal year, Smathers Libraries spent over \$20,000 on books and permissions for course reserves*

## Citations and Resources

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These citations and other resources can be found at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/AA00013050/00001>