Open access textbooks present the opportunity to revolutionize how knowledge is disseminated. By making teaching materials freely available online, readers worldwide can engage with them, regardless of their ability to pay. Portland State University Library, is seeking proposals for its Open Access Textbook Creation Grant Program. The program strategically supports PSU Library’s effort to greatly reduce textbook costs and address college affordability for students.

Since September 2014, Portland State University Library has published 20 PSU faculty-authored open textbooks. These textbooks have saved 2,400 PSU students more than $250,000, and the open textbooks have been downloaded more than 130,000 times here in Portland and around the world.

We invite PSU faculty members to submit textbook proposals for any discipline taught at PSU at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Grant Amounts

- Successful proposals for low to medium enrollment courses will be given $6,000 to spend on their projects. A minimum of $2,500 of the grant funding will be designated towards working with Scribe Inc. to provide editorial (composition cleanup, copyediting, proofreading), production (design, typeset), and book cover design.

- Successful proposals for high enrollment courses will be given $8,000 to spend on their projects. A minimum of $2,500 of the grant funding will be designated towards working with Scribe Inc. to provide editorial (composition cleanup, copyediting, proofreading), production (design, typeset), and book cover design.

Project Timeline

- January 11, 2019: call for proposals open
- March 15, 2019: Deadline for all proposals
- April 1, 2019: Grantees notified
- May 2019: High-Impact OER Grantees Workshop

Proposals are welcomed for textbooks that will be ready to publish between now and December 2020.

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1 Dates and locations for workshops will be selected based on grantees selected and their availability
For more information please contact, Karen Bjork, Head of Digital Initiatives, kbjork@pdx.edu.

Eligibility Criteria for High Enrollment

- Must propose a change that would affect approximately 500 students annually
- Must replace required course materials worth approximately $100

Criteria for successful proposals

- PSU faculty member must be the sole or lead author
- Demonstrate that a completed manuscript will be delivered (a completed manuscript supports the teaching of an entire course (term) and includes a Table of Contents, consistent chapter elements and features, footnotes, glossary, etc.
- Geared towards a specific field of study
- Released with an open license (CC-By) which allows others to freely adapt, modify, copy and/or redistribute the content
- Demonstrate that the manuscript will be peer reviewed by at least 3 reviewers (2 of the reviewers must not affiliated with PSU)
- Open textbook and any supplementary materials must be ADA-compliant
- Demonstrate that the textbook will be used in the course upon completion
- A statement of support from your Department Chair, Assistant/Associate Dean or Dean

All grantees will be required to:

- Participate in long range assessments of the Open Education Initiative
- Write a final grant report that includes a narrative summarizing the challenges and accomplishments of your experience creating/finding/using the materials, the impact on your teaching, the impact on students and their performance, and lessons learned
- Report enrollment for each term the OER is in use
- Deposit open textbook into PDXScholar with an appropriate Creative Commons license of: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC-BY).
- Complete a signed letter of agreement

Review and Selection Committee
Evaluation, selection, and awards are determined by an internal review committee. Successful evaluation is facilitated by proposals that are well written and specifically address the guidelines.

Grant Application