

**TEXTBOOK
AFFORDABILITY
project**
TAP.USF.EDU

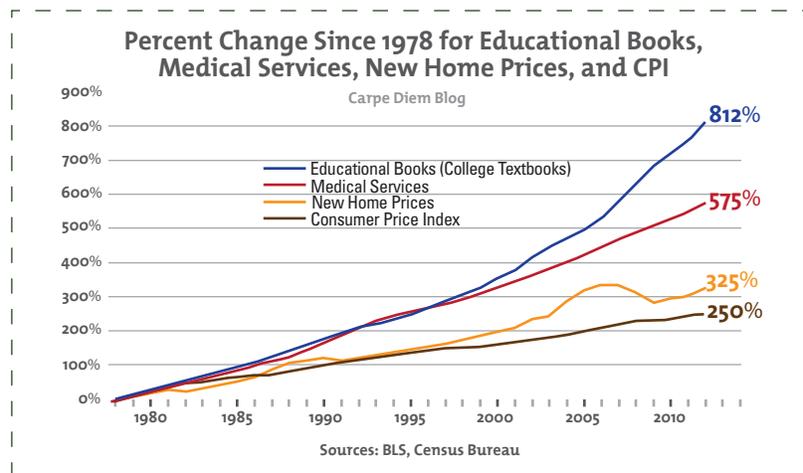


Why Textbook Affordability?

The Textbook Affordability Project **(TAP)** provides **affordable** solutions to make course materials available to students.

Textbooks have always been a part of college costs. But in recent years, textbook prices have risen precipitously.

Consider the financial circumstances of **USF students in 2013-2014:**



- 74% had some form of grant or scholarship aid
- 42% received Pell Grants
- 48% had Federal student loans totaling \$117,279,761

According to a US Student Public Interest Research Groups 2013 survey:

- 65% avoided purchasing a textbook due to price;
- 94% of those were concerned that doing so would hurt their grade; and
- Nearly half stated that the cost of textbooks affected how many and which classes they took each semester.

Against this backdrop, The University of South Florida Textbook Affordability Project launched in 2010 to support success for all USF students.

Textbooks on Course Reserve

Since 2011, the USF Textbook Affordability Project's course reserve initiative has given financially challenged students a path to succeed when they cannot afford to buy full-price textbooks.

Copies of printed textbooks are acquired through donations requested from publishers. Others are purchased from the USF Bookstore with funding contributed by USF Campus Business Services. The textbooks are then placed on reserve for students to use in the USF Tampa Library. Priority is given to textbooks which provide the greatest benefit to the most students; to date 2,316 course sections have textbooks on reserve for 118,426 students to use.

Benefits:

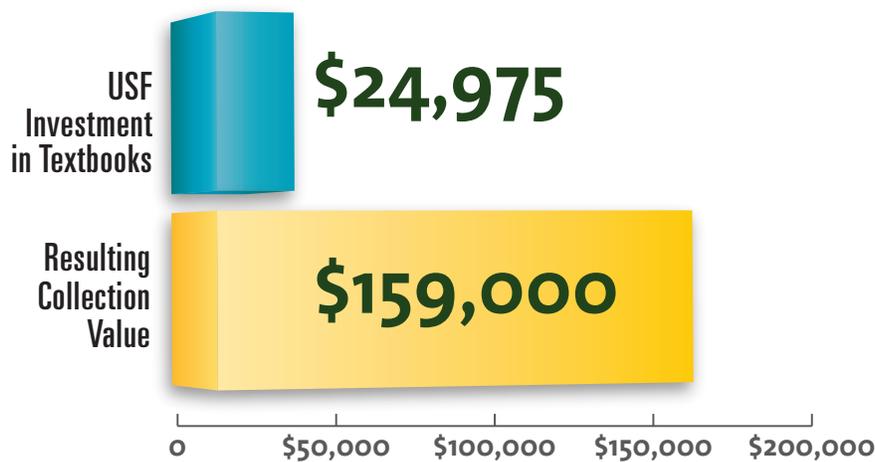
- Offers financially challenged students an alternative to buying expensive textbooks
- Bolsters student success by offering those texts not available to students via USF's Ebooks in the Classroom program

Next Steps

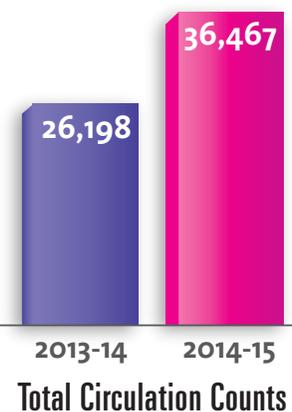
Funding increases will purchase more textbooks, benefiting more students in need:

- Additional copies of high-use textbooks allow more students to utilize them during peak times, such as before an exam.
- Because publishers are increasingly unwilling to donate textbook copies, this program needs new sources of funding to benefit a larger population of students.

ROI Snapshot



Student Usage: Textbooks on Course Reserve



Ebooks in the Classroom

USF's Ebooks in the Classroom initiative is revolutionizing student learning and improving college affordability. Assigned class books are often published in electronic form and, since 2011, have been provided by the library at no cost to USF students.

Teaching faculty request ebooks from the library. The ebooks are then available to 100% of the students in the course. Recognizing that it provides significant benefits to students, the USF Tampa Library funds this popular program on an ongoing basis.

Benefits:

- Convenient and flexible, ebooks can be directly linked to a USF course website and accessed anytime, anywhere.
- Ebooks in the Classroom has saved students more than \$1,071,455 over having to buy these books in print form.
- Most ebooks are owned in perpetuity once USF purchases them, so they are not a recurring cost. Cost savings grow with additional use in subsequent semesters.
- Ebooks are available to entire courses, thus engendering equity in the classroom; reducing haves/have nots.

Next Steps:

- The USF Tampa Library is building a comprehensive database of ebooks with suitable usage conditions: the rights for students to print, download the text, and support for an unlimited number of users. This database will make it easier for faculty to adopt ebooks for courses.
- The USF Tampa Library is increasing acquisitions of ebooks in support of student coursework.
- Increased marketing and outreach to students, faculty, and parents

ROI Snapshot



Open Access Textbooks

Open access textbooks are an open educational resource freely accessible by all, without restriction. Open educational resources represent an exciting frontier in access to education and may take the form of a PDF, ebook, video, or other format.

The USF Tampa Library and USF Innovative Education have, since 2011, published and/or hosted open access textbooks in PDF form on the USF Scholar Commons website.

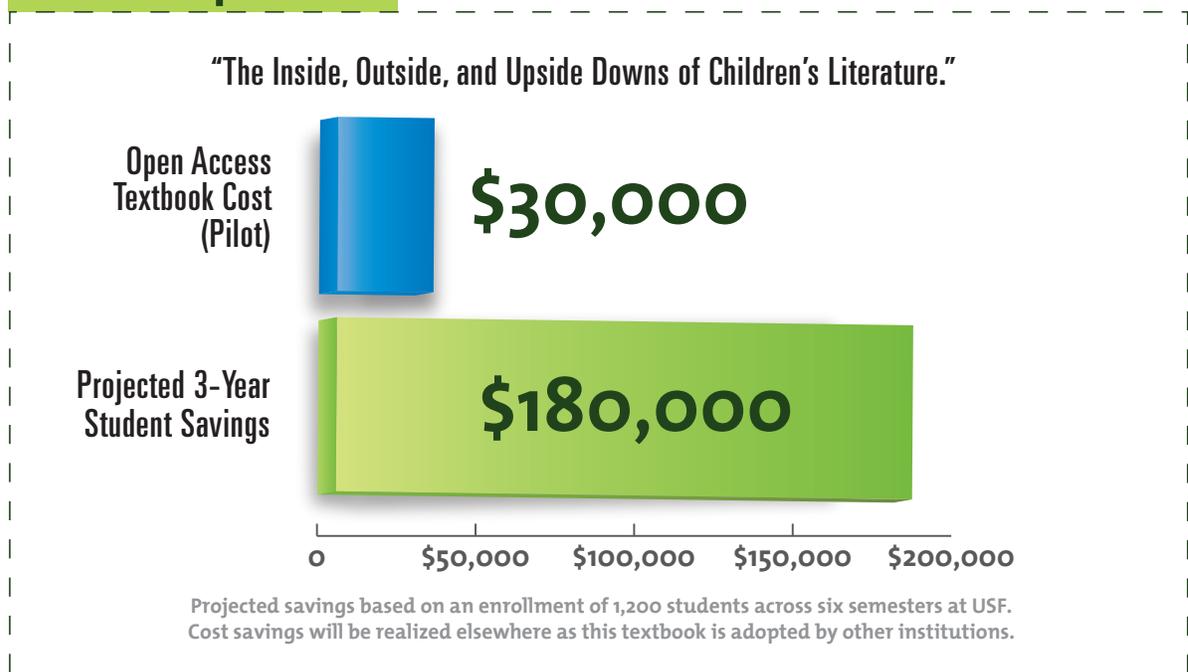
Benefits:

- 🎓 Open access textbooks are available to benefit USF students as well as students and faculty around the world.
- 🎓 Open access textbooks facilitate USF faculty teaching beyond USF, thereby expanding USF's global reach.
- 🎓 Once an open access textbook is created, it is easily revised and can be used semester after semester.

Next Steps:

- 🎓 An open source textbook, "The Inside, Outside, and Upside Downs of Children's Literature," authored by USF Associate Professor Jenifer Schneider, will be published in 2015.
- 🎓 The USF Textbook Affordability Project will increase the number of open access textbooks we support and publish in the coming years.

ROI Snapshot



What Happens Next?

We are creating a replicable model suitable for adoption by other institutions.

The USF Tampa Library is doing more to ensure greater textbook affordability and access for students:

1. Increase outreach to faculty members

Faculty are the key to affordable options. The USF Tampa Library will ramp up awareness efforts to ensure that faculty have a better understanding of the issues and of the solutions to affordability.

2. Develop USF policies and procedures to strengthen open access

Sound policies, procedures, and practices will encourage and support affordable options for USF students and advance a student-centric culture.

3. Adopt Licensed Content

The USF Tampa Library continues to build a strong, comprehensive collection of ebooks, online journals, video, and more, that can be packaged as a custom 'textbook' or collection of course materials in lieu of expensive textbooks.

4. Join the Open Textbook Network

Open Textbook Network representatives from the University of Minnesota will conduct workshops at the University of South Florida to engage faculty directly with open textbooks. These workshops have resulted in a 40% adoption rate of open access textbooks for participating faculty.

5. Increase Level of Collaboration with USF Bookstore

Explore options to negotiate with commercial publishers in order to lower cost through delivery of e-textbooks at the course level.

For More Information



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