

# We Buy Textbooks So Students Don't Have To

Stephanie Clark, Head, Circulation Department  
University of West Florida, John C. Pace Library

## TXT Reserves Program

Beginning in Fall Semester 2015, the John C. Pace Library began a Textbook Course Reserves program to support 1000- and 2000-level courses. Originally designed to support courses with a substantial number of PELL students enrolled, the program has grown, with financial support from the Provost's Office, to include support for all 1000- to 4000-level courses offered on the main campus in Pensacola as well as the Emerald Coast Campus in Ft. Walton Beach.

Our textbook program is highlighted in campus tours and credited with lowering the cost to degree for our students. It has also resulted in a Circulation Department renovation to make room for all the books. Faculty support the program because students who cannot afford the textbook have an option that allows them to focus on being prepared for class without stressing about the cost of textbooks.

Next steps will include investigating using iPads and Kindles to provide students with all their needed textbooks on one device for the entire semester.

See <http://libguides.uwf.edu/Textbooks>

FL HB7019, Education Access and Affordability, requires textbook information to be publicly posted 45 days before the beginning of a semester, allowing students time to shop for the best prices. (See <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7513/urlt/7019-16.pdf>)

The campus bookstore has been a great partner to the library by sharing that textbook information with our Textbook Reserves Specialist, who uses it and the Course Catalog to determine what textbooks need to be purchased for the coming semester. When possible, titles from the General Collection are moved to the Textbook Collection rather than purchasing duplicate copies.

The library's Fiscal Specialist purchases needed textbooks from Amazon, Textbook Brokers, and the campus bookstore.

The Cataloging Department gives textbooks priority in processing.

The Textbook Reserves Specialist links items and courses in our ILS Course Reserves Module and works with Cataloging to assign each item a unique TXT number (e.g., TXT 0001).

The goal is to have all required textbooks available for the first day of classes. We continue to purchase textbooks through the first weeks of the semester as sections are added/deleted and changes are made to syllabi.

## Program Criteria

### Original criteria (Fall 2015):

- 1000- and 2000-level courses offered in Fall 2015 (main campus only)
- At least 60 students enrolled in the course
- 30% of those students are PELL students
- Required textbooks cost \$100 or more
- No consumables (e.g., lab manuals) or access codes are purchased

### Current criteria:

- 1000- through 4000-level courses offered in the current semester (all campuses)
- Required textbooks only
- No consumables (e.g., lab manuals) or access codes are purchased

## Textbook Circulation Rules

- Textbook Reserves are housed in the Circulation Department
- Students may check out up to 3 textbooks at a time
- Textbooks are checked out for 2 hours and must stay in the building.
- Late fees accrue at \$1.20 per hour
- Lost or damaged textbooks are billed the standard lost book fee of \$75 plus the actual cost of the textbook – we haven't lost one yet!

## Next Steps

As the Board of Governors and University encourage faculty to consider open educational resources (OERs), the library continues its commitment to support pedagogy without interference. At the same time, we are committed to making textbooks available to our students in a variety of ways.

From the beginning of this program, we have looked for e-textbooks with unlimited licenses that we could make available to students via the catalog.

In Fall 2017, we piloted a Kindle program with one history class to determine if students would be open to textbooks in that form. Six Kindles were purchased and Kindle versions as well as hard copies of the three required textbooks for this particular class were purchased. At the end of the semester, we will collect feedback from the students who participated as well as the instructor for this particular class.

We plan to make the Kindles more widely available in Spring 2018. We also plan to explore how our iPad collection can be used to support the textbook program as well.

Semester	Courses Included in Program	Number of Textbooks Available	Semester Circulation Total	Cost to Library
Fall 2015	1000- and 2000-level courses	157	1,457	\$13,471.44
Spring 2016	1000- through 3000-level courses	493	2,565	\$28,030.46
Summer 2016	1000- through 3000-level courses	573	508	\$4,205.91
Fall 2016	1000- through 4000-level courses	1,437	7,206	\$50,625.17
Spring 2017	1000- through 4000-level courses	1,488	7,949	\$18,570.44
Summer 2017	1000- through 4000-level courses	1,582	1,802	\$10,137.12
Fall 2017	1000- through 4000-level courses	1,833	5,537 (as of 31 Oct 2017)	\$20,780.78

## Contact

Stephanie J. Clark  
John C. Pace Library  
University of West Florida  
Email: [sclark2@uwf.edu](mailto:sclark2@uwf.edu)  
Phone: 850-474-2413  
Website: <https://secure.uwf.edu/library/>