

Non – Traditional Textbook Options

Textbook Method	Description	Pros	Cons	Green Issues	Resale Value
Open Textbooks	Open textbooks are free, open licensed textbooks offered by the author(s). While this is a fairly new trend in textbooks, a few schools, such as MIT, Harvard, & Cerritos College have started to use or offer open textbook sites. Example: Flat World Knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free for students to view online. Affordable for students to print selected portions. • Little to no paper waste. • Can be accessed 24/7 with computer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not many open textbooks are available right now. • The college may have to pay for/monitor a website to host open textbooks. • Cannot access in class without computer access. 	Little to no paper waste, minimal energy use. However, students may print many pages.	\$0; but students will not have to purchase any textbooks for start up costs.
Textbook Rentals	There are two types of textbook rentals: 1) <i>Rentals offered through the campus bookstore.</i> Students use campus bookstores to rent textbooks for a selected term. Example: Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA 2) <i>Rentals offered through websites.</i> Example: Chegg.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced prices from buying new or used. • Can benefit both students & campus bookstore. • Almost all textbooks are available for rentals. • Certain rental companies will also plant a tree for each textbook rented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less demand for new textbooks can cause publishers to raise their prices long term. • Hurts campus bookstore sales. 	Uses less paper by recycling textbooks. Uses more gas/pollution for shipping.	\$0; students must return textbooks at the end of the rental term. However, the cost of renting a textbook is far less than buying.
Bundles & Selected Chapters (Custom Editions)	Instructors can opt to work with a publisher to only use selected chapters. These textbooks are often paired with supplemental materials such as a cd-rom, website access, or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced paper waste as only selected chapters are printed. • Custom textbooks can cost less than 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often students will not use supplemental material in class, which make the bundles seem as a 	Less paper waste as only selected chapters are printed.	\$0 ; After being opened bundles are not accepted

	workbook.	regular textbooks. However, many are still very expensive.	wasted investment for students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No resale value for students, and used options are rarely available. 		to be resold.
E-textbooks	E-textbooks are electronic textbooks that a student can download onto a mobile book reader, a computer, or even an iPhone. Example: Course Smart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be purchased & downloaded immediately. Instructors can customize E-textbooks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of portability without a mobile reader or laptop. Cannot reference in class without computer access. No resale value. 	Little to no paper waste, minimal electronic use. However, students may print pages for reference.	\$0

Additional information:

- On average, new textbook editions are printed every 3.5 years.
- On average, students in the U.S. pay \$900 per year on textbooks – many of which are not able to be sold after the term. Students who chose rental programs spent \$130-\$240 per year on textbooks.
- E-textbook company, Course Smart, claims 521,432 trees have been saved by opting for e-textbooks.
- Textbook rental company, Chegg, has planted over 4,000 acres of trees.