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# Textbook Affordability Initiatives and Open Educational Resources: Complementary or Competing Approaches to a Persistent Problem?

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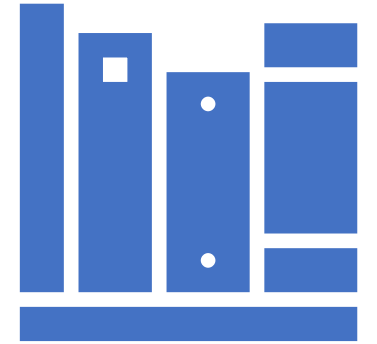
# Textbook Affordability Initiatives and Open Educational Resources:
*Complementary or Competing Approaches to a Persistent Problem?*

Rachel E. Scott & Anne Shelley, Illinois State University

# Background

- Costly commercial textbooks impede student success
- Librarians advocating for alternative course materials
  - OER
  - Textbook affordability
  - Faculty incentives
  - Instructors can fill gaps
- No comparison of OER and affordability approaches

# Institutional Context

- Illinois State University
- Public R2 with 20,000 Students
- Textbook Affordability Committee
  - Student Survey
  - Faculty Survey
- Library eTextbook Project

# Methods

- Library eTextbook Project
  - Survey
    - Faculty, n=21
    - Students, n=426
  - Focus Groups
    - Faculty, n=11
    - Students, n=15
- Music Scholars and Open Access
  - Qualitative Interviews

# Open Educational Resources: Benefits

- Financial relief for students
- Non-commercial
- Faculty have more control over content

# Open Educational Resources: Challenges

- Faculty engagement & labor
- Quality
- Availability

# Textbook Affordability: Benefits

- Starts with Faculty-selected materials
- Longstanding publishers
- Traditional Review Processes

# Textbook Affordability: Challenges

- License Availability
- Ongoing Cost to Library
- Collection Management Implications

# Librarian Involvement

- Search for Materials
- Incentivization Programs
- Add Resources to LMS Sites
- Outreach, workshops

# Both/And Thinking

- Institutional Context
- Collaboration

What approach has worked at your institution?

What has not worked well?

Discussion

# Contact Us

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