Geosciences Librarianship 101
Affordability of Course Materials

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Overview

• About Me & My Departments
• Why do this?
• Big Giant Spreadsheets
• Big Ol’ LibGuides Project
• Syllabi Review
About me:

• Bachelors & Masters degrees in Mathematics.

• Masters and Specialist degrees in Library and Information science.

• At The Ohio State University since 2004.

• Added geosciences responsibilities in 2015 previous liaison retired.
My departments

- Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering (2004)
- School of Earth Science (2015)
  - Includes Geodetic Science
- Geography (2015)
  - Includes Atmospheric Science
Why is course materials affordability an issue?

1041% cost increase 1977-2015.

- NBC News

Average student spends $1200 per year on books/supplies.

- USA Today

50% of students who delayed buying textbooks because of high prices saw their grades suffer as a result.

- Inside Higher Ed

Average new textbook cost
2011-2012: $58
2015-2016: $80

- National Association of College Stores

Consumer Price Index 1998-2016
Everything: 48%
Recreational Books: -4.2%
College Textbooks: 181%

- American Enterprise Institute

30% of students use financial aid to pay for textbooks.

- Student PIRGs
What can libraries do to help with course content?

### Traditional
- Course reserves
- Item checkout (for items not on reserve)

### More Recent, But Similar
- E-Reserves
- E-books
- Streaming Media
- Electronic journals

### More Recent + More Radical
- Open Education Resources (OERs)
- Campus affordability initiatives
- Librarian consultations on affordability
This librarian’s path from passive to active efforts

React to direct requests

Mention electronic formats available.

Work with interested faculty via grants / programs

Curriculum map courses to ID multiuser ebooks and evideos & share with instructors
Big Giant Spreadsheets

1. Courses & Descriptions
2. Department Workbook
3. Search
4. Data Entry
5. Quality Check
6. Share
7. Summer Updates
8. Slideshow & Roadshow

Viewing later? Click to see details in Appendix 1
So what do these workbooks look like (Ex: Earth Sciences)?

Click on the course to go to the list of library materials that may be useful to your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Material ID</th>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>4798, 5615</td>
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Additional search options, OER info, usage rights, etc.

See search options to find more items

Contact me if you want further assistance with finding materials.

Click on a course, you go to the workbook’s tab for that course.
How did this work out?

- Started conversations – some instructors responded with interest, questions, etc.
- Some items were of interest.
- Visits to meetings resulted in more interest.
- Decent download of spreadsheets detected (BuckeyeBox records this info).

- Unknown who made use of stuff without telling me.
- Some courses had very little content that worked.
- Ex: Intro courses’ ebook options much more limited.
Some generalities about formats

Videos:
• More available for lower-level courses
• Popular with statistics or anything involving death and destruction (earthquakes, weather, volcanoes, etc.)
• Heavily in Films on Demand, sometimes other platforms

Ebooks:
• Less available for intro courses, except as study/problem guides
• Some very niche courses had only a few books
• Heavily with publishers with wide ebook coverage (Springer, Elsevier, etc.)
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Wouldn’t it be great if I could have a course guide for every course? But this would take SO long to do this!
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Covid happens → Work at home!!
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

People need work at home projects!!
Who did the work?

- Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Earth Sciences (School of)
  - Includes Atmospheric Science
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Statistics
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Click on the course to go to the list of library materials that may be useful to your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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See search options to find more items.

Contact me if you want further assistance with finding materials.

EARTHSC 1911

Getting Started

Recommended E-Books

Recommended Videos

EARTHSC 5718

Getting Started

Recommended E-Books

Find Books

- OSU Library Catalog
- Course Works Catalog
- University Library [Full Text]
- E-Journal Center [Full Text]

The collection includes over 2,900 reference books on a variety of engineering and technical subjects from more than 40 publishers and professional societies. These electronic books are full-text searchable on a collection or within one of the 19 subject areas. Content is displayed in PDF format. Some volumes contain interactive graphics and tables.
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

1. Dept Guide Templates
2. Copy, Rename, Repeat
3. Add items as assets
4. Add assets to course
5. Quality Check
6. Publish & Connect to Course
7. Communicate

From Big Giant Spreadsheets

Viewing later? Click to see details in Appendix 2
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Preliminary Data on use (8/25 – 10/02)

• 460 new course guides created (there were already several guides)
• Use: 2800+ views (includes some views during checking, some guide creation continued into Fall semester)

Top courses thus far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Views</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH - Calculus</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSE 2111</td>
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<td>CSE 1222</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 1172</td>
<td>54</td>
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</table>
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

So what about GEO-related courses?

• Usually lower enrollment
• Have also been working on syllabi review (see next section – some are embedding content elsewhere in course)
• Some higher use in this area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
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<td>GEOG 2400</td>
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<td>CIVILEN 4210</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 2100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

See my guides: [https://go.osu.edu/dotsonguides](https://go.osu.edu/dotsonguides)
For both spreadsheets and guides, why didn’t you…?

Share links to search?
• Already tried
• Not specific enough

Talk to instructors first?
• Too many people
• Too little time
• Give specific titles to entice

Include journal articles? OERs?
• Too little time
• Too many options

Use syllabi?
• Not always available
• Sometimes too basic
• Consistent source (course descriptions) easier
A few more questions….

**How long did spreadsheets take?**
- A few hours to gather course info
- ~10-15 minutes per class finding sources
- Data entry into spreadsheets varied by # of items

**How long did guides take? (based on Danny speed)**
- Template – ~10 minutes (based on existing subject guide for dept)
- Create a new course – ~2 minutes per guide
- ~1 minute per item from spreadsheet to add as asset
- ~1 minute per asset to add to guide

**Might instructors find this pushy?**
- Maybe
- Sharing info only
- Do with it what they feel like
Syllabi Review

1. Grants offered to have reviews done by OSU’s Affordable Learning Exchange
   • Instructor required to reduce cost by a certain % due to review

2. I also volunteered to do reviews despite grant.
Syllabi Review

What’s involved?

- Talk to instructor and examine syllabus
- Course-wide ebook of OER option?
- What videos match with individual topics?
- What supplemental text (books, journal articles, news, etc.) fit topics?

Share with instructor, get feedback / questions

Revise recommendations, fill in gaps.

Reshare and tweak.

Course (eventually) taught with changes
Syllabi Review

• Worked with several instructors to do this
• Most in Geography and Earth Sciences
• Some involving grants, some more casual
• Much more targeted, detailed, and TIME CONSUMING.

Now you see why I didn’t do this for every department, every class for spreadsheets!
Sources for stats near beginning:

- USA Today: https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2014/02/02/cnbc-college-textbooks-expensive/5038807/
- Student PIRGs: https://studentpirgs.org/reports/sp/covering-cost
Questions?

dotson.77@osu.edu

Download slides:

https://go.osu.edu/dotsongl101
Big Giant Spreadsheets

**Step 1: Courses & Descriptions**

- Use official Course Catalog for IDing courses
- What courses?
  - Focus only on undergrad courses (1000-5999)
  - Skip courses such as independent studies, generic group studies numbers, etc.
- Course description is key to many courses, especially those with ambiguous names
- Record details
Big Giant Spreadsheets

Step 2: Create Excel workbook for each department

- Each course gets its own worksheet (tab)
  - This is where items for each course will go
- Each department gets an TOC tabs with links to each course’s worksheet plus a general info tab.
Big Giant Spreadsheets

Step 3: Search, Search, Search…

• Use terms found in course title, description, etc.
• Limits:
  • Ebooks
    o Unlimited user options only
    o Exception for Safari Books Online (100 seat consortial license when first did the project, now unlimited) and sometimes with software books from other sources
  • Streaming Videos
  • Years (2000+ or 2010+ depending on discipline)
Big Giant Spreadsheets

Step 4: Data Entry

- Record titles, links, and format in spreadsheet for each class in its worksheet.

Step 5: Quality Check

- Make sure things were working right.
Big Giant Spreadsheets

Step 6: Share with Instructors

- Get list of faculty, lecturers, TAs, etc. from department sites.
- Give context in email.

Step 7: Update and Repeat over summer

- Looks for new content
- Remove content that is no longer available (usually videos)
- Redistribute (to updated list of contacts)
Big Giant Spreadsheets

**Step 8: Slideshow & Roadshow**

- Use slideshow to share details and spreadsheets
- Distribute to instructors
- Visit select departments (curriculum committees, faculty meetings, etc.) when able to snag an invite
Appendix 2
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Step 1: Create template for department/program

- Holding spot for recommended ebooks/videos
  - Ebooks section is gallery format – with 3 book covers displayed at once, moving slide show, and ½ size covers.
- Additional content on finding books, journal articles, help info, etc.
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

**Step 2: Copy, Rename, Repeat**

- Copy the template
- Rename to course number
- Repeat until done with department/program
Step 3: Add items from spreadsheets as assets

- Ebooks as “book from the catalog”
  - If no book cover found, use generic blue book
  - Link to catalog record
- Videos added as links
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Step 4: Add items to course guide

• When ebooks added, include alt text for images.
• Videos added to guide as links.
  • Note: in some cases with a large number of videos, these were added as Rich Text en masse rather than one-by-one as videos. In these cases, these weren’t added as assets prior.
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Step 5: Check for problems

- Books not linked?
- Missing cover?
- Something else?
  - Ex: Some Kanopy content dropped over summer, had to delete some links.
Big Ol’ LibGuides Project

Step 6: Publish & Connect

• Publish guides
• Connect to course in Canvas via Carmen Library Link
  o Custom system that connects LibGuides to courses, course has a “Library Link” in Navigation that will then lead to the specified guide.

Step 7: Communicate

• Share with instructors (same people that previously got the spreadsheets)
BONUS: Course Guides on Steroids

- Mathematics & Statistics Learning Center asked for more advanced guides for courses they work with most.
- Received list of individual topics covered by course.
- Found videos for each topic.
  - Includes Khan Academy videos in addition to OSU Libraries streaming videos.
- Includes some limited-user ebooks – all noted with user limit.