



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Adjunct Faculty

From: Anne Prestamo, Chair, Council for Library Services, Florida Academic Library Services Cooperation, Florida Virtual Campus; Dean, FIU Libraries  
Joseph Riquelme, Member, Council for Distance Learning and Student Service, Florida Virtual Campus;  
Interim Assistant Vice President, FIU Online

Date: March 14, 2016

Re: Open Education Resources - Survey of Statewide Efforts to Reduce Textbook Costs

In our role as FIU liaisons to the Florida Virtual Campus, we are passing on this message by Lucy Harrison, Interim Executive Director of Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (a division of Florida Virtual Campus/FLVC), and the request that you please participate in this important survey:

The rising cost of textbooks over the last decade is having a negative impact on student success in college. A 2014 U.S. PIRG Education Fund report found that 65% of college students reported not purchasing a textbook due to cost, and 95% of those students said they suffered academically because of it. In response to this crisis, the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) is on the rise as post-secondary institutions and individual faculty members attempt to decrease educational costs for students and improve student success. The Hewlett Foundation defines OER as "teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open education resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."

The information gathered by this survey about current efforts to reduce the costs of textbooks to students through the use of OER and other means will assist the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC)\* in establishing a statewide infrastructure to support these activities. The goal is to reach as many librarians, instructional technology/design staff, and teaching faculty as possible.

The potential benefits of this study include lowered educational costs for students, increased support for the use of OER and other resources in the classroom, and professional development opportunities. The potential risks of participating in the survey are minimal. It will take about ten minutes to complete the survey. Your responses will be automatically compiled in a spreadsheet and cannot be linked to you unless you choose to identify yourself.

This project was approved by the UWF IRB as exempt on October 27, 2015. If you need additional information or documentation of the approval, please contact Claire Dygert at (352) 415-6829 or [CDygert@flvc.org](mailto:CDygert@flvc.org).  
By clicking on the link below you acknowledge that you agree to participate in this survey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLVC\\_OER\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLVC_OER_Survey)

Please complete the survey by Friday, March 25, 2016. Thank you for your participation!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact Claire Dygert at (352) 415-6829 or [CDygert@flvc.org](mailto:CDygert@flvc.org).

\*FLVC is legislatively mandated to "promote and provide recommendations concerning the use and distribution of open-access textbooks and education resources as a method of reducing cost." (FLVC is an organization designated in Florida Statute to serve Florida's public universities and colleges.)