

Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) has been working with USG faculty, libraries, and administrators since July 2015 to provide affordable textbook alternatives, resulting in **\$16.5 million dollars in savings to students to date**.

ALG is both a set of programs and strategies and a one-stop service to help USG faculty and staff identify lower-cost, electronic, free, and open educational resources (OER), building on the cost-effective subscription resources provided by GALILEO and the USG libraries.

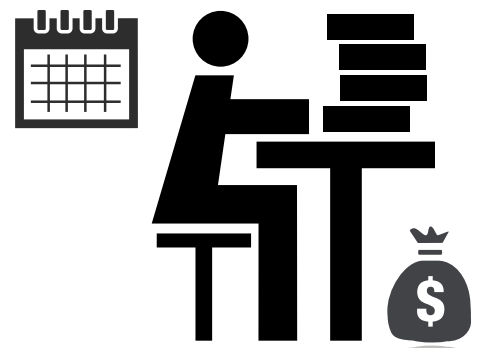
Research shows the costs of commercial textbooks pose significant barriers to student success. See the ALG website for sources and more data:

- **Required course materials cost on average over \$1200 per year, or an additional 14% of the average cost of tuition.**
- **50%: choose how many/which classes they take based on textbook costs (leaving financial aid for courses unused)**
- **65%: don't buy a textbook because it is too expensive**

More affordable learning materials are supported through a number of key programs and strategies:

- **Campus advocacy** (every campus has an ALG champion and library coordinator)
- **Faculty development** (over 1000 attendees at ALG webinars and in-person workshops)
- **Bookstore collaborations** (providing assistance to bookstores for lower cost options)
- **Grants and partnerships for textbook transformation** (107 grants and partnerships with California State University System, Open Stax College of Rice University, eCore, and The University of Georgia Press and the University of North Georgia Press)
- **Web clearinghouse for materials** (find free and no-cost-to-students quality learning materials)

“Resoundingly, students were appreciative of the instructor’s willingness to use no-cost materials. Additionally, students stated that the resources used were more timely, better aligned with course objectives, more interesting than books used in various classes, and more engaging.” —*Dr. Loleta Sartin and Dr. Molly Kimsey, Middle Georgia State University, EDUC 2110*



# Updates July 2016



## Textbook Transformation Grants

One hundred and seven grants have been awarded to date, over 300 faculty and staff have participated, and over 87,000 student enrollments are being affected, with close to \$13,000,000 in savings. In combination with the ALG support for the eCore zero-textbook-cost program, **annual savings have reached \$16.5 million.** A new *Open Mathematics In Action* grant project builds on the transformational success of the College of Coastal Georgia's Mathematics Department by providing other USG faculty with the support, resources, and training needed to implement a package of OER and low-cost math homework solutions. **The Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY17 is now posted.** Categories include No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials, OpenStax Textbooks, and Interactive Course-Authoring Tools and Software, with projects of small (up to \$10,800) and large scale (up to \$30,000) impact. **Deadlines: July 31, 2016; September 4, 2016; and December 11, 2016.**

## GALILEO Open Learning Materials: [oer.galileo.usg.edu](http://oer.galileo.usg.edu)

Affordable Learning Georgia is launching a repository for the materials adopted, adapted, and created through the support of its programs, including those produced through the Textbook Transformation Grants. The GALILEO Open Learning Materials repository will be accessible via the ALG website, GALILEO, and the Georgia Knowledge Repository. Materials are searchable by course title, number, discipline, and subject and are open for reuse by anyone in the University System and the world. A world map highlights world-wide use. Highlights include new free and open-licensed textbooks, produced by the University System of Georgia and published by the University of North Georgia Press. Covering highly-enrolled courses in the USG, these high-quality, expertly-written and peer-reviewed texts include:

- **Compact Anthology of World Literature**
- **World Literature I: Beginnings to 1650**
- **Writing the Nation: A Concise Introduction to American Literature, 1865 to Present**
- **Understanding Music: Past and Present**
- **Laboratory Manual for Introductory Geology**
- **History in the Making: A History of the People of the United States of America to 1877**
- **Contribute a Verse: An Introduction to First Year Composition**
- **Principles of Macroeconomic Literacy**
- **Basics of American Government**



Textbook Transformation Grant team members Robin Snipes, Kirk Heriot, Laurence Marsh, Mark Flynn, and Amy Thornton replaced a Strategic Management textbook that retailed at \$180 with no-cost, library, and open materials.

**“Having the [open] textbook allowed everyone to be on equal footing when it came to starting the class. For example, sometimes the financial aid reimbursement is not available at the beginning of the semester for some students. The textbook transformation gives all students access to the textbook from the first day of class.”**

—Dr. Robin Snipes, Columbus State University,  
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