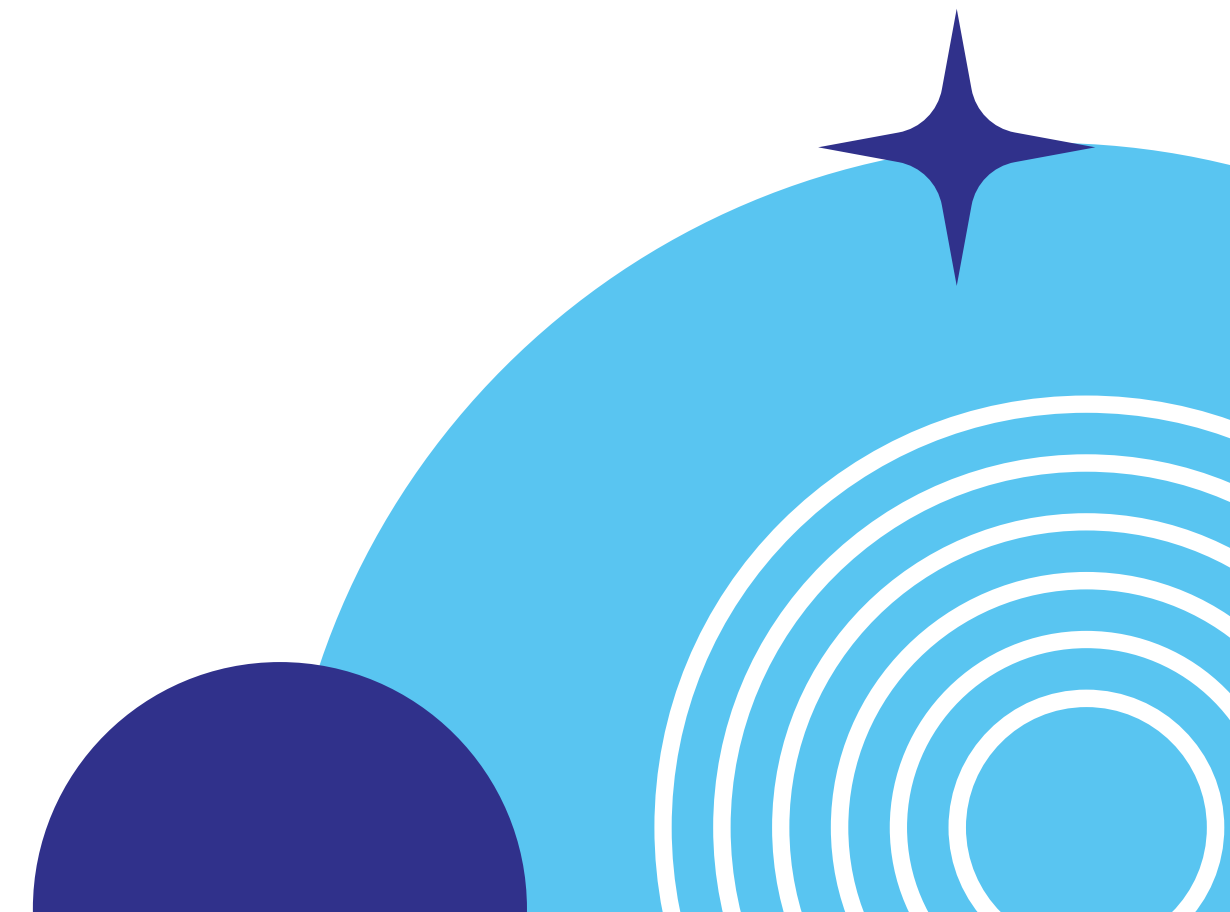




# STRIVING FOR EQUITY:

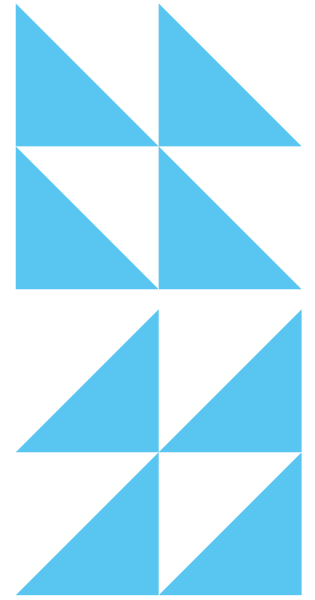
How Walker Library Supports Student Success  
Through Textbook Affordability Programs

Suzanne Mangrum & Ginelle Baskin  
Middle Tennessee State University



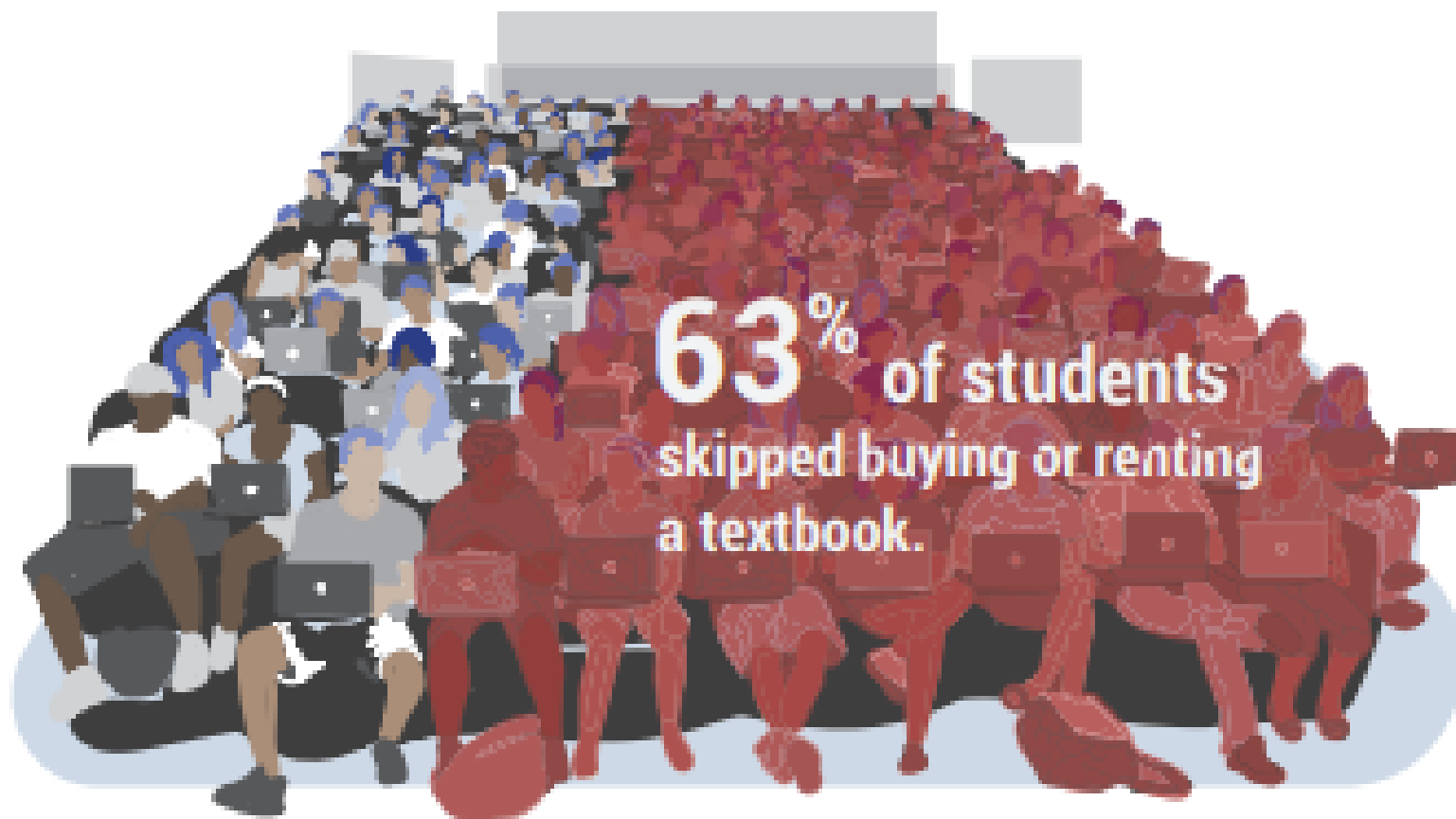
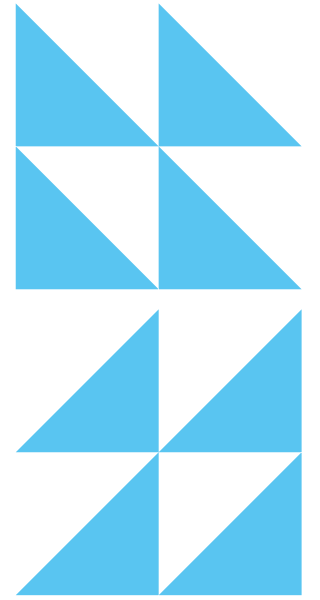


# PRESENTATION GOALS



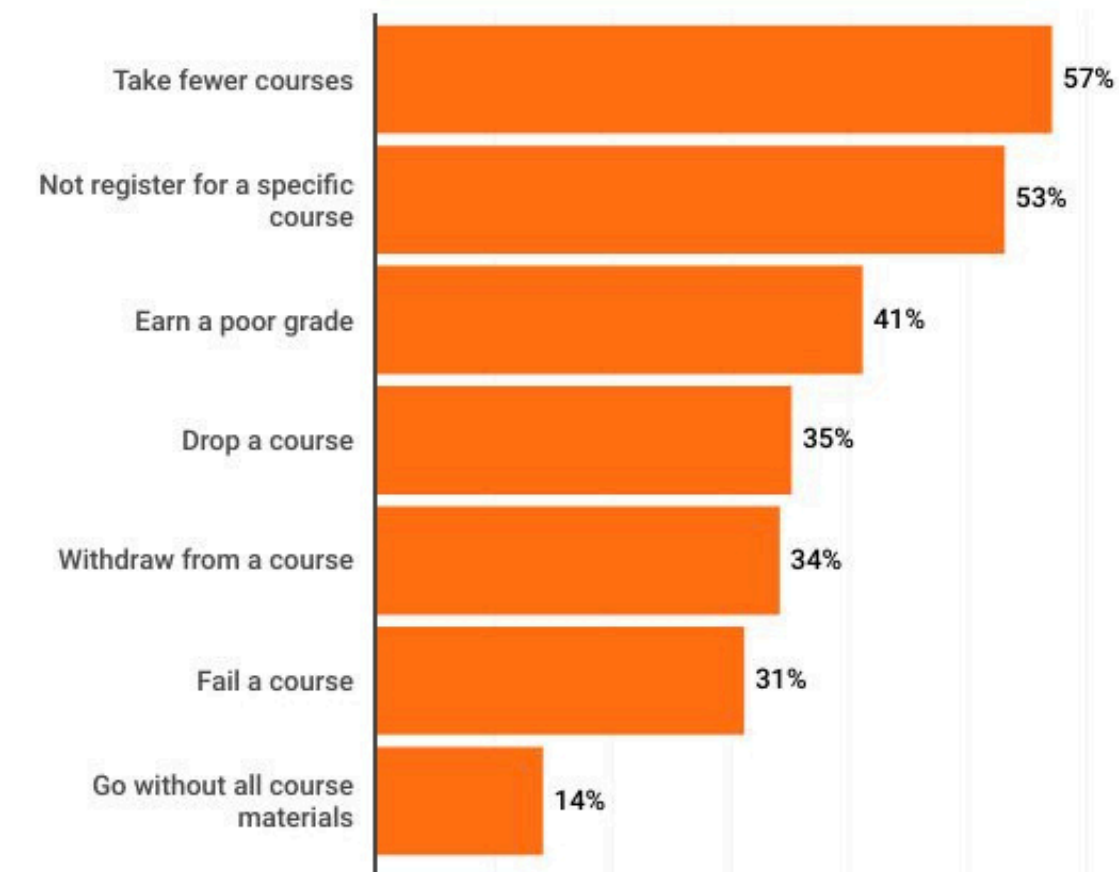
- Discuss the role of libraries in textbook affordability & student success
- Demonstrate the benefits of textbook programs & open educational resources
- Equip participants with strategies to implement these programs at their institutions
- Foster collaborative dialogue among participants to share their experiences and challenges promoting textbook affordability

# WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



## Hurting Student Success

Share of students who said they have been impacted in their college career by course material costs in the following ways



Source: Bay View Analytics 2023 National Survey on Student Course Material Affordability, May 2023 • Student responses to the question "In your academic career has the cost of course materials caused you to:" n=500



# LIBRARY TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

- We use our budget to purchase physical textbook copies for in-library use
- Supports high-enrollment General Education and True Blue Core courses
- We currently support 29 courses
- We have about 1,000 books, but only 300 are on reserve



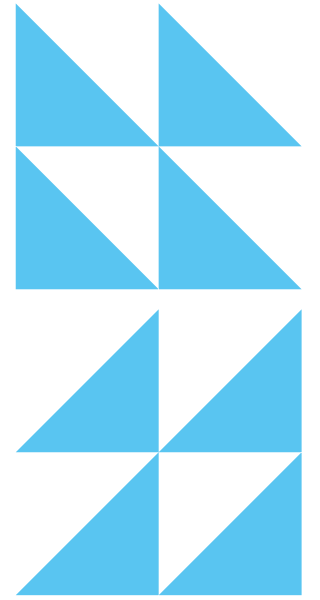
# LIBRARY TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

## History leads to structure:

- Our collections are what we use to support our users, and textbooks were traditionally *not* a part of the collection
- In the age of information overload, we have tried harder to tailor collections more closely to the curriculum
- Early attempts for the library to get involved “come to us” philosophy
- Now we dedicate a portion of the budget to buy assigned textbooks and do a lot of work to set up course lists each semester



# LIBRARY TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

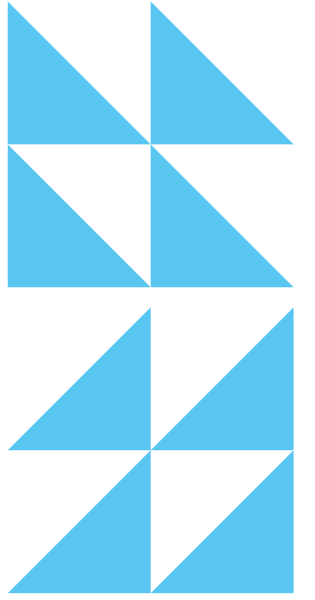


## What has worked well:

- A goodwill gesture
- It has helped Walker Library to stay in tune with our campus
- Something you can touch and it comes with human help



# LIBRARY TEXTBOOK PROGRAM

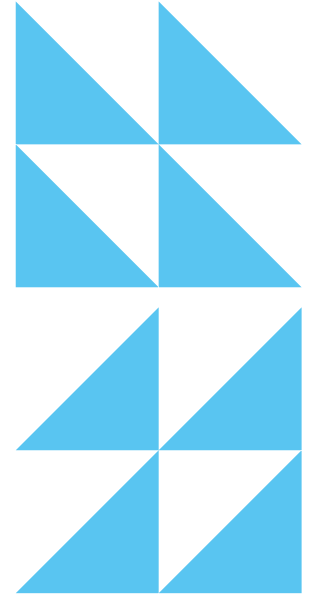


## What has *not* worked well:

- Not at all what some expect
- Marketing has been challenging
- Harvesting information on required textbooks has been painful
- Time consuming
- Expansion is not possible at this time



# LIBRARY TEXTBOOK PROGRAM



## Where we are now

- Direct communication with faculty
- Finding efficiencies
- Expansion goal: to DRM-free e-books used textbooks

# OER PROGRAM

## What is OER?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others. - UNESCO



# OER = Free + Permissions

## The 5Rs

Retain

- Make and own copies

Reuse

- Use in a wide range of ways

Revise

- Adapt, modify, and improve

Remix

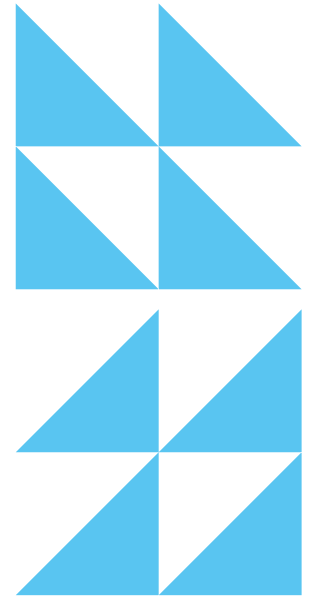
- Combine two or more

Redistribute

- Share with others

Image Attribution: [The 5Rs](#) by [David Wiley](#) is licensed [CC BY 4.0](#).

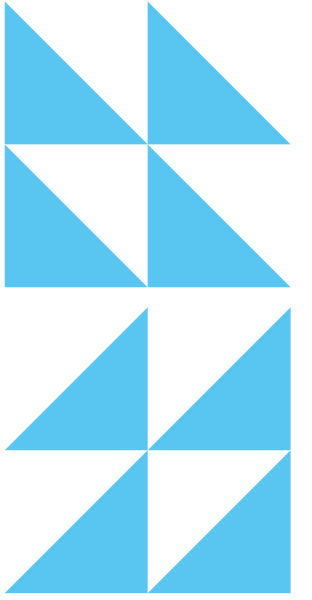
# BENEFITS OF OER



- Saves money for students & promotes classroom belonging by providing course materials that are freely accessible to everyone
- Provides immediate access to course materials on the first day of class
- Allows instructors to customize course content
- Gives the opportunity to include diverse voices, examples, and perspectives
- Improves student engagement and success



# OER AT MTSU

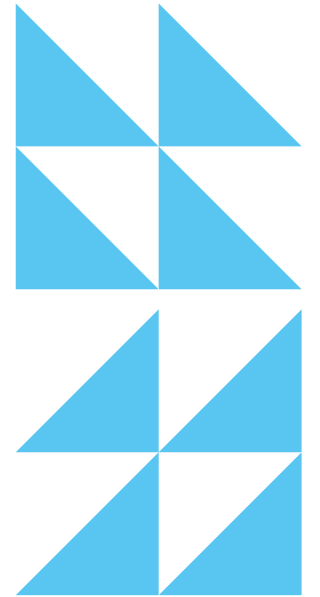


## Program goals:

- Promote the creation, adoption, curation, & discovery of openly licensed materials by our instructors and students
- Provide support for instructors to incorporate OER into their curriculum
- Improve availability & affordability of course materials
- Advocate for inclusivity & removal of barriers for student learning through OER adoption

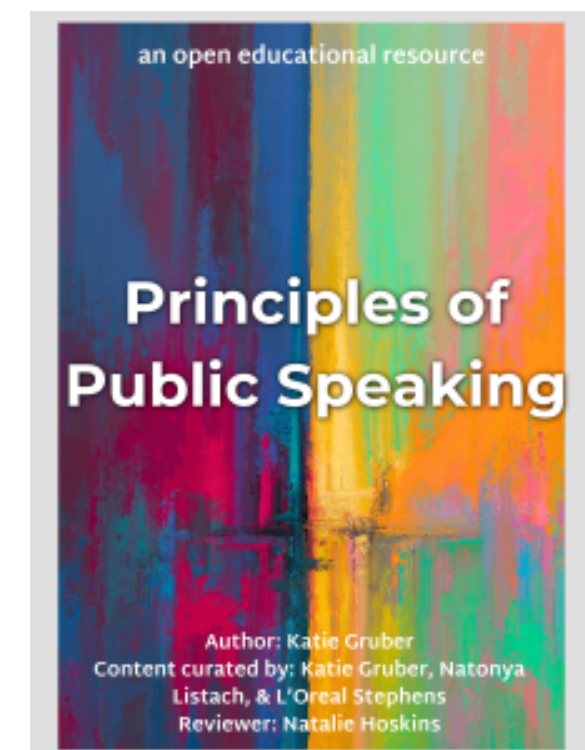


# OER AT MTSU

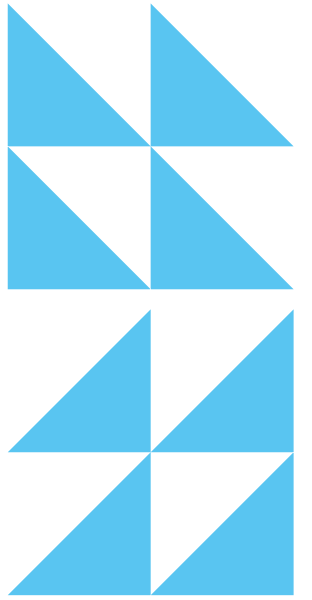


## Faculty support:

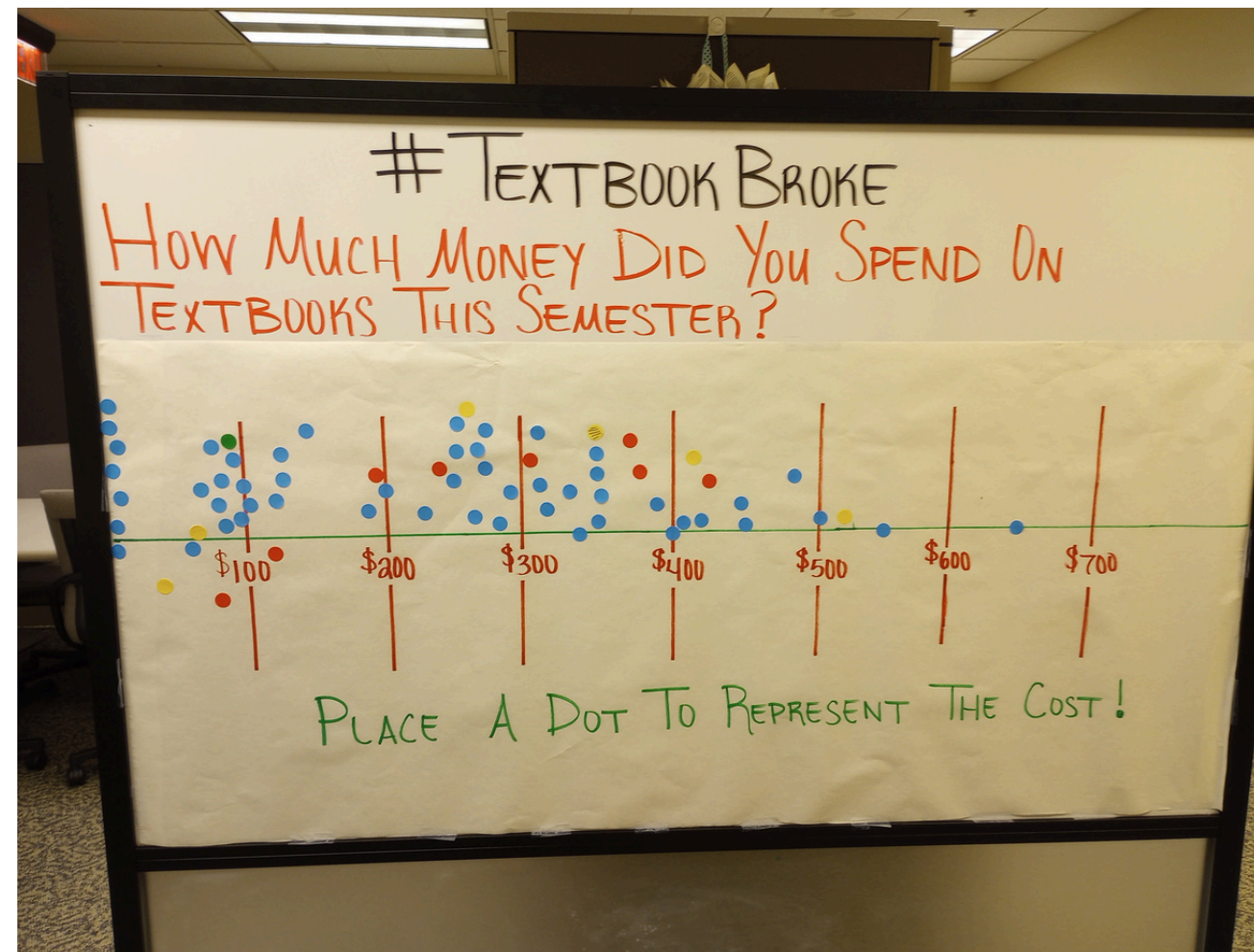
- Faculty learning community: Affordable Access for Student Success
- Faculty workshops:
  - Accessibility in OER Design
  - Finding OER for Your Course
  - Introduction to Pressbooks
- Pressbooks platform: [mtsu.pressbooks.pub/catalog](https://mtsu.pressbooks.pub/catalog)



# OER AT MTSU



Raising student awareness through events & presentations





# Middle Tennessee State University Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC)

ZTC courses have no textbook-related costs, including access fees for online materials. A course is designated as ZTC if it uses open educational resources (OER), library-licensed materials, instructor-created materials, free online resources, or no resources at all.

Since Starting in Spring 2022, MTSU's ZTC has:

Courses <b>78</b>	Sections Offered <b>684</b>	Students Enrolled <b>14,221</b>	Approx. Student Savings <b>\$1,422,100</b>
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### Breakdown of ZTC Data since Spring 2022:

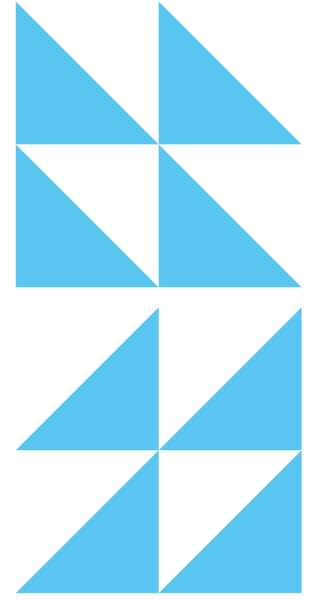
Semester	ZTC Sections	All Sections	% ZTC Sections	ZTC Courses	All Courses	% ZTC Courses	ZTC Students	Approximate Student Savings	% ZTC Growth from a Year Ago
Spring 2024	304	4,739	6.41%	59	2,234	2.64%	6,328	\$632,800	407%
Fall 2023	154	4,931	3.12%	35	2,199	1.59%	3,663	\$366,300	185%
Spring 2023	60	4,819	1.25%	20	2,263	0.88%	1,352	\$135,200	46%
Fall 2022	54	5,006	1.08%	24	2,215	1.08%	981	\$98,100	--
Summer 2023	49	1,363	3.60%	20	864	2.31%	739	\$73,900	123%
Spring 2022	41	4,866	0.84%	13	2,265	0.57%	871	\$87,100	--
Summer 2022	22	1,444	1.52%	10	882	1.13%	287	\$28,700	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>27,168</b>	<b>2.52%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>1.97%</b>	<b>14,221</b>	<b>\$1,422,100</b>	

- [Summary](#)
- [Faculty](#)
- [Repr.](#)
- [Fill Rates](#)

**Note:** Approximate cost savings calculated by multiplying the average cost of a textbook (\$100) by seats filled in the class.

We track the growth & impact of the initiative on our [ZTC Data Dashboard](#).

# OER AT MTSU

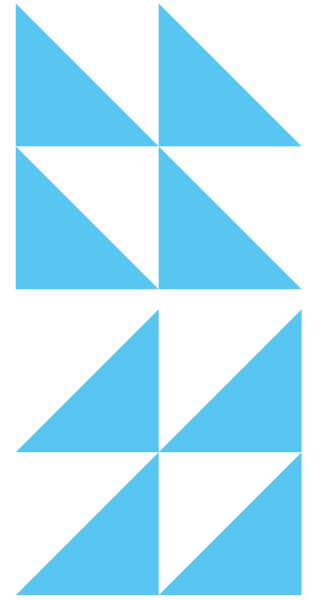


## Future plans:

- Pilot an Affordable Course Materials Grant Program.
- Consider adding a “low cost” attribute/designation in Banner.
- Raise advisor awareness.
- Continue to raise faculty awareness & provide OER support.



# WHAT'S NEXT?



## TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY

The MTSU library plays a significant role in supporting student success through its various offerings in affordability initiatives: Open Educational Resources, the Library Textbook Program, and Course Reserves. Our affordability initiatives allow students to access required textbooks and materials without purchasing them. Students can complete assignments without incurring costs associated with buying or renting textbooks.

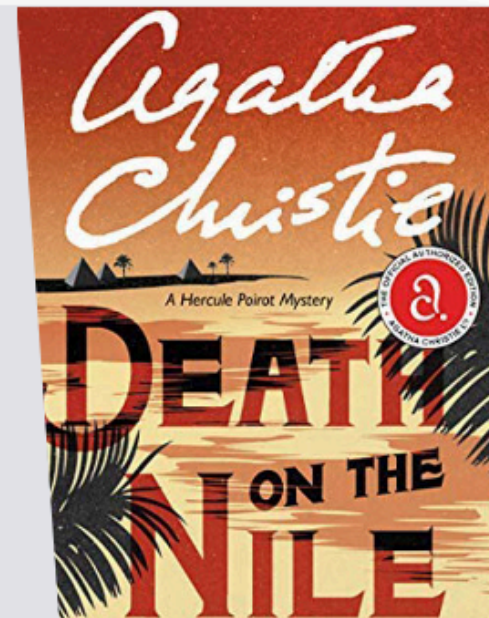
### Library Textbook Program (LTP)

Subtitle

Walker Library has developed a textbook affordability collection called the Library Textbook Program (LTP) to help students with the rising cost of textbooks. This collection of textbooks:

- ✓ Consists mainly of General Education courses with a large enrollment (**Over 500 students enrolled**)
- ✓ Can be checked out for in-library use only, 3 hours at a time
- ✓ Contains some eBooks, usually for literary works

[FAQs](#) [Link2](#) [Contact](#)



## Textbook Affordability Webpage Coming Soon!



### Open Educational Resources (OER)

Subtitle

**Open Educational Resources (OER)** are teaching, learning, and research resources that are free of cost and access barriers, and which also carry legal permission for open use. Generally, this permission is granted by the use of an open license (for example, Creative Commons licenses) which allows anyone to freely use, adapt and share the resource—anytime, anywhere."--Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC).



# Discussion

What is the **biggest challenge** to achieving textbook affordability on your campus?





# Discussion

What **opportunities** do you see for implementing textbook affordability programs at your institution?



# QUESTIONS?

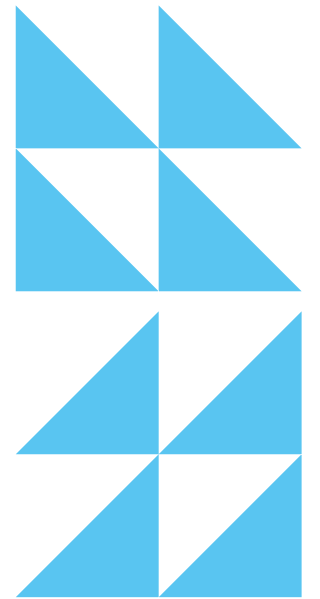
Suzanne.Mangrum@mtsu.edu

Ginelle.Baskin@mtsu.edu

**Library Textbook Program:** <https://library.mtsu.edu/services/ltp>

**OER Program:** <https://library.mtsu.edu/oer>

**How to Find ZTC Classes:** <https://w1.mtsu.edu/oer/textbooks.php>





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