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## Tip sheet - Considerations associated with selecting a textbook

This tip sheet provides guidance on setting a textbook for your topic.

### Key considerations

#### Do you need to use a textbook?

Instead of relying on a textbook, create an effective reading list by compiling resources from multiple sources. A well compiled list can be a valuable learning resource and replace the need for a Textbook. The Library can help you identify items in our collection, in a variety of formats, which would be suitable alternatives to textbook content. Reading lists assist in making the resources accessible to students regardless of where they are studying and can relieve the cost burden for students.

#### Have you considered an open textbook?

Textbooks are expensive and often students cannot purchase all the required textbooks for a topic. An open textbook has an open license that makes it free for anyone to use and change. Open textbooks make key topic resources accessible and equitable for our students.

The [Library's Online Content for my Topic Service](#) can work with Topic Coordinators to identify open textbooks as an alternative to a traditional textbook.

#### Do you have students studying offshore online?

All readings and other learning resources must be available online – 'available' meaning both hosted electronically and accessible to all students, including those studying in countries who may be affected by internet firewalls or censorship. Refer to the [Tip sheet – Teaching offshore students online](#) for further information about supporting these students.

#### Is the Textbook available to the Library as an eBook?

The Library prioritises eBooks to provide best access for students and will always endeavour to buy eBooks whenever it can. The Library always aims to obtain the gold standard eBook models, these are eBooks that are Digital Rights Management (DRM) free and/or unlimited users.

Unfortunately, not all textbooks are available to the Library as an eBook. The Library can work with you to identify books that are available as an eBook or explore alternate options to a textbook to support your students access to resources.

### Technological eBook considerations

Many eBooks available to the Library are only available as limited user eBooks (1-3 simultaneous users). These will generally be available to view as online only (and therefore cannot be downloaded and printed).

Not all platforms allow PDF download or they have a daily limit on downloads to the person viewing them (these are set by the publisher and out of the Library's control).

The eBook models available to the Library never include added interactive content such as videos, please consider the information included in the [Tip sheet: Sourcing and creating digital content for further information regarding eBook models](#).

### Note on Print only Textbooks

The Library purchases a (limited) number of printed textbooks to ensure equitable access to resources for students (based on enrolments), but ultimately where a textbook is required the expectation is the

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student purchases their own copy. Please keep the expense of textbooks in mind when considering their use.

## **Will you be using open textbook quizzes and exams in your topic?**

If setting open textbook exams and quizzes in your topic, you need to consider the eBook models available, as the particular model may impact on student access to the text. If the model has limited access, is a view online and has no PDF download options, students will struggle to access it during the assessment which will add to their stress. If the title is limited but allows PDF download, you will need to strongly encourage your students to download and save it, to help mitigate access issues and stress at assessment time. Unlimited and DRM free models are preferred and provide the best student experience.

## **Settled on a textbook?**

Once you have chosen a required or recommended textbook please fill out the Service One [Textbook Notification](#) form. This is shared with Disability Services and the [Student Experience Textbooks website](#). The Student Textbook page is updated regularly and allows students to discover their textbook needs prior to classes, giving them an opportunity to purchase in advance of term.

## **Contact**

[Online Content for my topic](#) - Use this service to request support from Librarians to source online materials for your topics.

[Textbook notification](#) – Notify the Library of your chosen required or recommended textbook. Please fill out the form each year. To rollover your textbooks contact us via the Library's Readings Query.

[Readings Query](#) – Contact the readings team for any assistance with using the readings system or send your readings requests to the library to process.