Statement on providing E-textbooks

UC LIBRARY

Covid-19 has changed the learning and teaching landscape with increased demand for online teaching and research content. The publishing environment has also changed and it is increasingly difficult to provide equitable access to textbooks. Covid-19 has brought this issue into sharper focus. UC Library carefully navigates publishers' textbook access models to best support UC learning and teaching.

Publishers are increasingly constraining UC Library's ability to provide equitable textbook access, including:

- imposing stringent access requirements in provision of E-textbooks
- declining to sell their E-textbooks to libraries
- not offering some textbooks in electronic format
- escalating E-textbook costs for libraries

Preferred E-textbook criteria

- ✓ Minimum of 3 concurrent users but preferably unlimited access
- ✓ Minimal or no restriction on downloading, copying and printing
- ✓ Access via approved third party providers such as ProQuest or EBSCO
- ✓ One-off purchase
- ✓ Costs are less than $NZ2000 per E-textbook[1]
- ✓ Authentication via accepted standard, e.g. via EZProxy or single sign on

The following generally do not meet the criteria for Library purchase

- ✗ 1 user or individual user access models
- ✗ Costs are in excess of $NZ2000 per E-textbook, prohibitive or unsustainable long term
- ✗ Authentication or access is not standard (e.g. named access via username/password)
- ✗ Read online options with restricted user licences
- ✗ Access requires an institutional license to the publisher's platform
- ✗ eBooks via the VitalSource platform

Process

- If your request meets the criteria, it will be purchased
- Requests for purchase for E-textbooks that do not meet the criteria for purchase may be referred to the Library's Information Resources Working Group (IRWG) as needed.
- Requests for E-textbooks that involve subscriptions are considered by IRWG

Alternatives

- Open Educational Resources
- Scanning up to 10% of the original printed version (with an option to add a further 10% at an additional cost) and making this available through Learn (CLNZ licence) to meet specific course needs for a specific period of time

The future is Open

Libraries around the world continually campaign for better E-textbook access models and support open access eBook publishing. UC Library manages the publishing models as we can but it's not sustainable. UC Library has gifted financially to DOAB[2], OAPEN[3], and SCOSS[4] and sees the future as being more flexible, accessible, open learning. UC Library is committed to equitable textbook provision for students. To achieve this we strongly encourage the use of open resources in the teaching environment at UC.

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[1] This figure will be reviewed regularly
[2] https://www.doabooks.org/oeap
[3] https://www.oapen.org/
[4] https://scoss.org/