

The background is a solid yellow color with a subtle, repeating chevron pattern of slightly darker yellow lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY 2019-2020 REPORT

West Virginia University

West Virginia University Textbook Affordability 2019-2020

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

Title 133, Series 51 Bookstores and Textbooks

1. Reminder Letters

WVU's Office of the Provost routinely distributes information to the faculty, both directly and via the academic deans, regarding textbook affordability. A reminder letter that details the importance of timely textbook selection is sent to the faculty every fall and spring semester in advance of the textbook selection deadlines. The WVU Bookstore also follows up with faculty who have not submitted their textbook selections in a timely fashion.

2. Textbook Selection Guidelines

WVU's textbook selection guidelines are clearly posted on the Provost's website and outline strategies to keep textbooks affordable for students. The guidelines address the use of earlier editions of textbooks, the customization of textbooks, deadlines for textbook selection, the receipt of payment or other benefit as an inducement for requiring a specific textbook, and the written provision of information by textbook publishers when soliciting an employee of the WVU Board. Committee discussions with departments delivering large-scale instruction indicate that many have adopted affordability as a key standard in their decisions on educational resource adoption and that the number of traditional textbooks required for student purchase is declining.

<https://provost.wvu.edu/projects-and-initiatives/textbook-affordability/textbook-selection-guidelines>

3. Default Selection of Textbooks

Implemented in Fall 2012, the textbook default selection procedure stipulates that the WVU Bookstore notify department chairs of departmental courses without textbook selections after the textbook selection deadline so that the department chair can apply the default textbook selection procedure. Default selections are strictly enforced. Each department, college, or school establishes its own procedure and forwards that procedure to the Textbook Affordability Committee. If a textbook selection has not been made, and the department, college, or school has no default procedure in place, the university-wide default procedure is applied, deferring to the course materials that were used the last time that the course was offered.

4. FacultyEnlight

FacultyEnlight is an online textbook adoption platform for faculty provided by the WVU Bookstore. Over time, it has become an easy to use and powerful tool for fulfilling textbook affordability guidelines. The software allows faculty members to research and adopt course materials, compare textbook costs, identify format availability prior to adoption, read product reviews, and review past textbook adoptions.

5. Student Facilitation

Student Financial Services has added Registration Integration to the student registration software (STAR). This integration helps ensure timely access to educational resources and enables students to easily pay for their required course

materials with financial aid. Students using Registration Integration are able purchase the materials for their enrolled courses simply and easily using the funds in their student accounts.

Additionally, the bookstore allows for easy search and price comparison of required and optional textbooks and other course resources. Students are provided with transparent pricing with rental, digital, used, and new book prices listed. An example is provided below.

HIST152 004 FALL 2020 REMOVE COURSE x

Image Not Available

EXPLORING AMERICAN HISTORIES, VOL.1

REQUIRED | By HEWITT

EDITION: 3RD 19

PUBLISHER: MAC HIGHER

ISBN: 9781319106409

from **\$37.35 - \$79.45**

RENT USED <small>(Return by 12/18/2020)</small>	\$37.35
RENT NEW <small>(Return by 12/18/2020)</small>	\$54.05
BUY USED	\$59.60
BUY NEW	\$79.45
BUY DIGITAL	\$49.99

Savings calculated off the new book price

Helpful Homework & Study Tools (Optional)

6. Open Educational Resources (OER) Initiatives

WVU is actively pursuing opportunities to encourage faculty and departments to adopt Open Educational Resources (OER) in their courses. OER is a general term describing a variety of different learning materials including textbooks, online modules, videos, and other resources. These resources are either in the public domain or have open “Creative Commons” licensing which permits their free distribution. Over the past few years, these resources have become widely acknowledged as a legitimate alternative to commercial educational materials.¹

WVU has encouraged faculty to review and possibly adopt OER resources in their courses. The WVU Libraries and Teaching and Learning Commons have been particularly active in this effort.

- A. WVU Libraries and Teaching and Learning Commons Open Educational Resources Grant
This grant is open to all instructors from the WVU campuses. It is meant to encourage instructors to innovate by finding new and more affordable ways to provide learning materials through OER. Mini-grants ranging between \$300.00 and \$500.00 dollars are available to facilitate the adoption of OER in larger courses. Larger grants are offered for instructors who would prefer to author their own OER for adoption in their classes.
<https://library.wvu.edu/about/oer/initiatives/grant>
- B. The WVU Library assists instructors who are interested in adopting OER. These include links to the most popular OER collections and an OER adoption guide webpage.
<https://library.wvu.edu/about/oer/resources>
<https://libguides.wvu.edu/c.php?g=793439>
- C. The Barnes & Noble bookstore now allows students to search for classes that have adopted OER.
- D. Dean of WVU Libraries Karen Diaz and Director of Access Services and Resource Sharing Martha Yancey have charged an OER Committee which has been active for several years. The OER committee held three open OER workshops in AY 19-20 and actively works to encourage OER adoption on campus.

¹ For a meta-analysis of the value and quality of OER resources, see, for example, Virginia Clinton and Shafiq Khan, *Efficacy of Open Textbook Adoption on Learning Adoption and Course Withdrawal Rates: A Meta-Analysis*, 2019.

7. Student Survey on Textbook Affordability

The WVU Libraries surveyed undergraduate students on their experience with textbooks and the effect of textbook cost on their learning. The results are available in Appendix A below.

8. Textbook Affordability Committee

WVU's Textbook Affordability Committee meets to set priorities regarding textbook affordability. The Committee is composed of ten members, including representatives from the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, Libraries, and Bookstore.

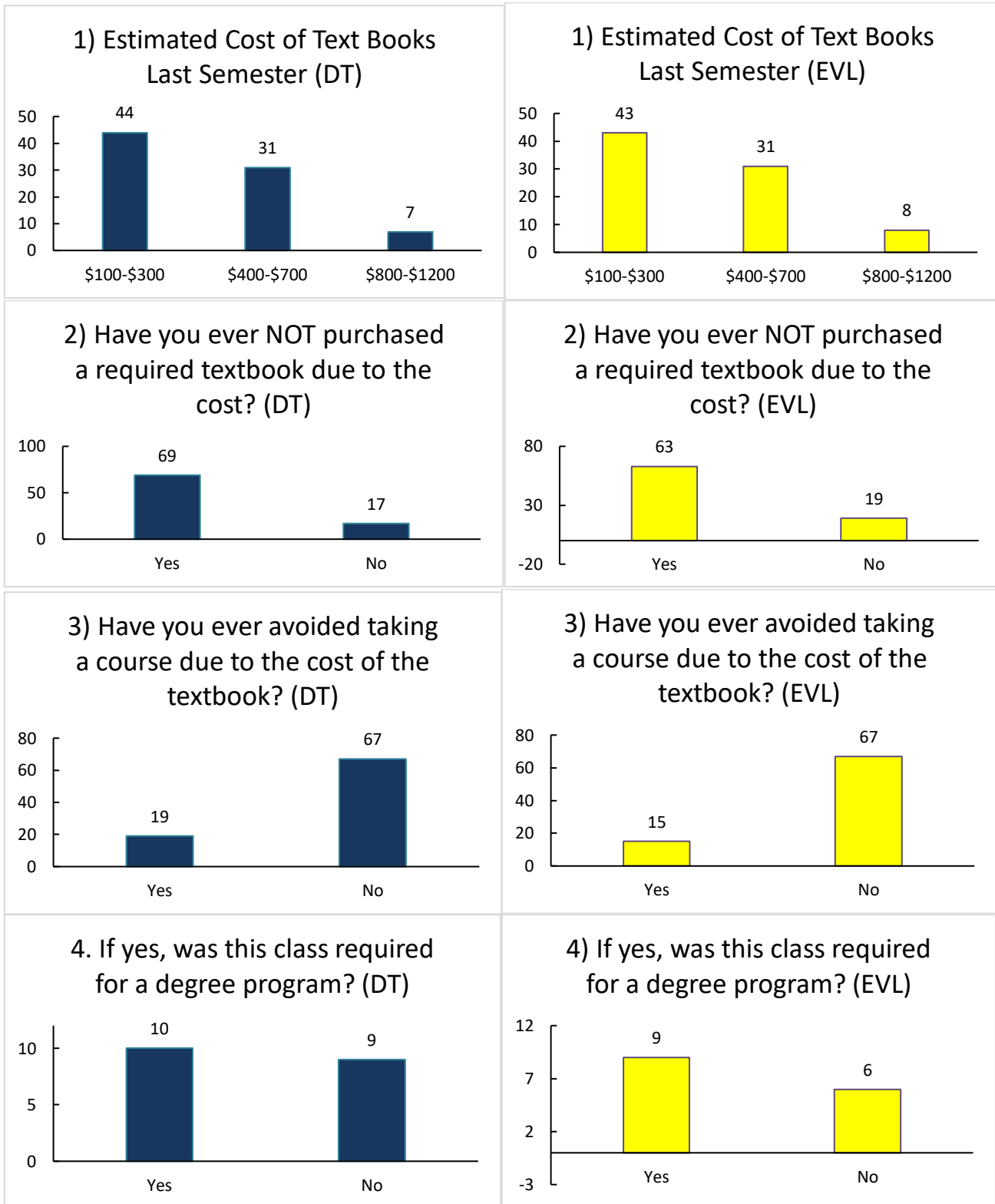
9. Initiatives for AY 20-21

The Textbook Affordability Committee will survey WVU general education courses to identify offerings which use OER. As WVU moves to adopt a new general education curriculum, courses that use OER resources might be identified in the student catalog and schedule of courses and receive preferred general education status.

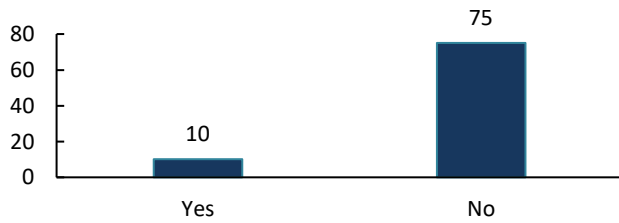
The Committee will also design and implement a new Textbook Affordability website that better integrates the variety of approaches to course material affordability and provides links to resources. The committee will begin with a survey of other land-grant institution initiatives and websites.

APPENDIX A

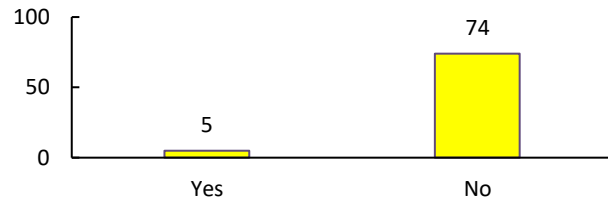
Survey of students taken at the Evansdale (EVL) and Downtown (DT) libraries



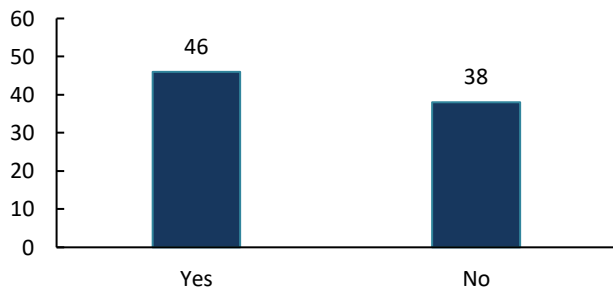
5) Have you ever withdrawn from a course due to the cost of the textbook? (DT)



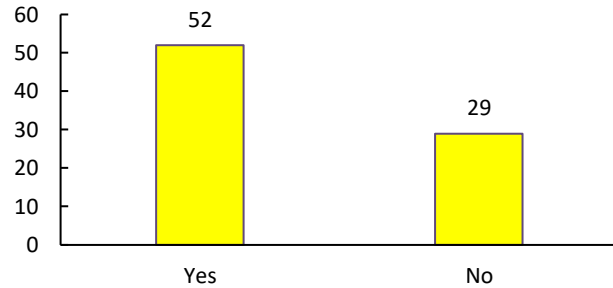
5) Have you ever withdrawn from a course due to the cost of the textbook? (EVL)



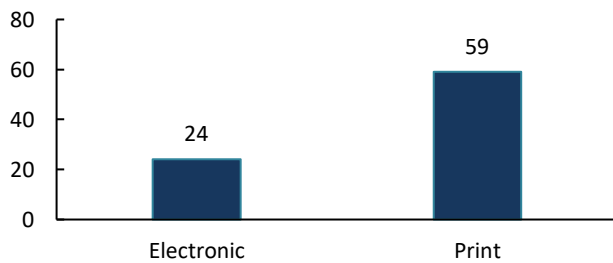
6) Do you regularly use electronic textbooks? (DT)



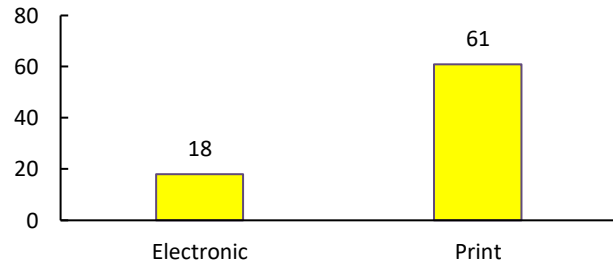
6) Do you regularly use electronic textbooks? (EVL)



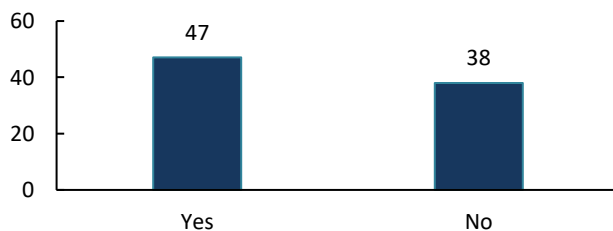
7) Do you prefer electronic or print textbooks? (DT)



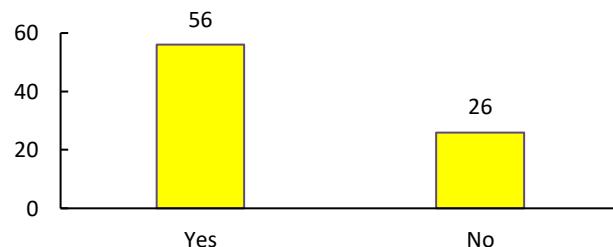
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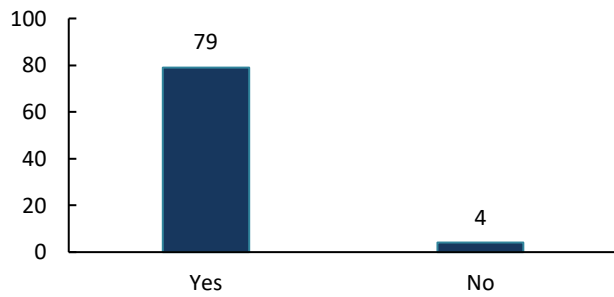
8) Are you aware there are free electronic textbooks available in some subject areas? (DT)



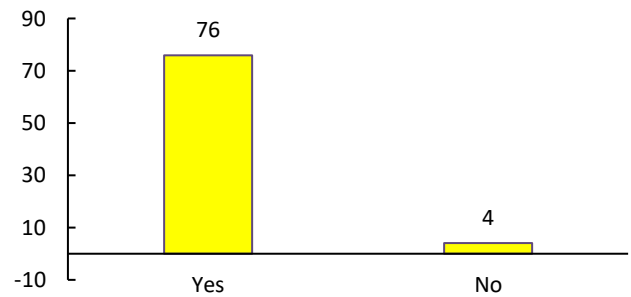
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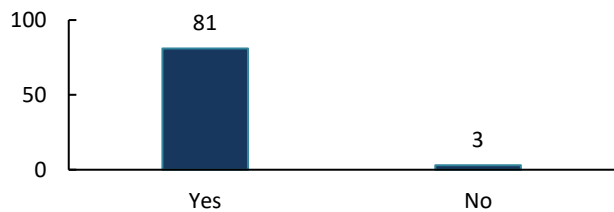
9) Would you use an electronic textbook if it was free? (DT)



9) Would you use an electronic textbook if it was free? (EVL)



10) Would a \$30 print textbook help reduce any financial strain? (DT)



10) Would a \$30 print textbook help reduce any financial strain? (EVL)

