

Crowd-Sourced Unlatching of Curricular Books: A Joint Pilot by the California State University, Knowledge Unlatched, and the Internet Archive

by Mark G. Bilby, PhD, MSLIS, Scholarly Communication Librarian, California State University, Fullerton
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Environmental Analysis

- User Culture: scanner apps, instant access, open requesting/sharing, on-demand use, and course shuffling
- Economic Trends: textbook inflation over the last 30 years has surpassed healthcare inflation
- Content Models: textbooks increasingly interactive, immersive, and value-added
- Pricing Models: vendor lending and subscriptions (BAAS) encroaching on purchasing or subsidizing (BPCs)
- Analytics: universities and bookstores have info, but aren't aggregating it openly or effectively
- Purchasers (students, parents, universities, funders) aren't bargaining collectively or strategically
- (Born-/Free-)Open Textbooks: becoming more prevalent and viable, but faculty adoption is difficult

Core Idea and Low-Hanging Fruit

- (Adoptive-/Rescue-/Liberated-)Open Textbooks = flipped, unlatched, unlocked, CC-relicensed textbooks
- Low revenue: books on which publishers and authors are making little or no money
- Limited availability: books that are rare, out of print, unlikely to get a new print run
- Print-only format: not-yet digitized, or only digitized by Open Library
- Broad impact: used in multiple courses across multiple universities
- Win-Win-Win-Lose: wise library expense, happy students, transitional publisher revenue, sad resellers

Pilot Idea and Partners

- California State University: robust state-wide initiative for Affordable Learning Solutions and Open Educational Resources; list of 18,000+ ISBNs to identify candidates
- Knowledge Unlatched: list evaluation, bulk relicensing negotiations, fundraising, MARC records
- Open Syllabus Project: textbook information (scraped from syllabi) to gauge use outside of CSU
- Internet Archive: scanning, metadata, base-availability (CDL), demand, fundraising awareness, flipping

Pilot Proposal Logistics: Price-Points, Licensing, Accessibility, Hosting and Analytics

- \$2750/book negotiation starting point, with flexibility; funder gets final decision
- Buy-out of all back editions, latest edition for next three years
- WCAG 2.1 accessible files in all formats (pdf, XML, etc.) hosted on KU ORL, IA, CSU ScholarWorks

COVID-19: Threat and Opportunity

- Funding/Budget chill in CSU: crisis mode; one-time funds allocated accordingly; hopeful for next AY/FY
- Internet Archive: National Emergency Library silver-lining: more awareness, usage, analytics and reliability

Bigger Picture, Next Steps

- More pilot partners: Open Syllabus Project, university consortia, major funders; .5M OpenStax = 180 books
- Expand book subsidizers-donors: funders, libraries, parents and students (individually & collectively)
- Global Open Textbook Database: ISBN; universities; courses; est. enrollment; via API price(s), availability
- Related ideas: GOTD in gov legislation and U policy? [Faculty zero-cost stipend](#)? Suggest OER alternatives?